

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF
FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS**

SUMMER 1987

January 1990

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	i
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1 AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM.....	2
Program Changes Since Last Year.....	2
Program Eligibility Requirements.....	2
Income Eligibility Standards.....	3
Resource Eligibility Standards.....	4
Nonfinancial Eligibility Standards.....	4
Benefit Computation.....	5
Food Stamp Program Participation and costs.....	6
An Overview of Economic Developments through 1987.....	8
2 CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS.....	11
Gross Monthly Income.....	11
Net Monthly Income.....	13
Sources of Income.....	13
Aid to Families with Dependent Children.....	16
Earned Income.....	16
Social Security and Railroad Retirement.....	16
Supplemental Security Income.....	16
Deductions from Gross Income.....	16
Food Stamp Benefits.....	17
Targeting Benefits to the Most Needy.....	18
Effect on Poverty Status.....	18
Assets.....	21
Caseload Composition.....	21
Households with Children.....	22
Households with Elderly.....	22
Households with Earned Income.....	22
Work Registration.....	23
3 CHANGES IN FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS.....	25
Changes in Income.....	25
Changes in Deductions.....	25
Changes in Benefits.....	28
Changes in Household Composition.....	32
Households with Children.....	32
Households with Elderly.....	32
Households with Earnings.....	32

4	DETAILED TABLES FOR THE 50 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.....	34
	List of Tables.....	35

FIGURES

1-Food Stamp Program average monthly participation by individuals, calendar years 1982-1987 by quarter.....	7
2-Unemployment rate for civilians, calendar years 1982-1987 by quarter (data seasonally adjusted).....	10
3-Distribution of FSP households by gross and net incomes, summer 1987.....	12

TABLES

1-Major economic indicators, 1982-1987.....	9
2-Poverty status of food stamp households, summer 1987.....	14
3-Major sources of income among food stamp households, summer 1987.....	15
4-Distribution of households and benefits by poverty line, summer 1987.....	19
5-Effect of food stamp benefits on poverty status of food stamp households, summer 1987.....	20
6-Work registration status of food stamp participants, summer 1987.....	24
7-Average nominal and real monthly income of food stamp participants, summer 1986 and summer 1987.....	26
8-Comparison of poverty status of participating households, summer 1986 and summer 1987.....	27
9-Frequency and value of deductions from gross income, summer 1986 and summer 1987.....	29

10-Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit, summer 1986 and summer 1987.....	30
11-Sources of change in average food stamp benefits, summer 1986 and summer 1987.....	31
12-Changes in food stamp caseload composition, summer 1986 and summer 1987.....	33

APPENDIXES

A. Poverty income guidelines for 1987.....	100
B. Maximum allowable net monthly food stamp income eligibility standards in summer 1987.....	101
C. Value of standard and maximum dependent care and excess shelter deductions in continental United States and outlying areas in summer 1987.....	102
D. Value of maximum coupon allotment (Thrifty Food Plan) in continental United States and outlying areas in summer 1987.....	103
E. Source and reliability of estimates.....	104
F. Sampling error of estimates.....	108
G. Data collection instrument.....	120
H. List of previous reports in this series.....	124

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Food and Nutrition Service has conducted periodic surveys of food stamp households to determine the characteristics and circumstances of program beneficiaries. This report presents the results of the most recent survey of about 11,000 participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The report has two objectives: to describe the economic and demographic circumstances of food stamp households in the summer of 1987 and to examine changes in these circumstances since summer 1986.¹

Slightly over 18.7 million people a month received food stamp benefits in the United States in the summer of 1987. At the time these data were gathered:

- o Nearly 94 percent of all food stamp households had a total gross income that was equal to or less than the official poverty guidelines; 39 percent were below half the poverty line.
- o About 41 percent of all food stamp households also received benefits under Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). Twenty percent had earned income. Over 20 percent of all households received Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits; nearly 21 percent received Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- o The average deduction from gross income was \$205 per month. The most frequent deduction--other than the standard deduction available to every household--was for excess shelter costs, claimed by nearly 71 percent of all food stamp households.
- o The average monthly food stamp benefit was \$120 per household or \$44 per person.
- o About 18 percent of all food stamp households had no net income after taking the allowable deductions from gross income, and thus received the maximum allowable benefit.
- o When food stamp benefits were counted along with cash income, the percentage of food stamp households below half the poverty line fell from 39 percent to 15

¹For this 1987 report (as for the 1986 report), summer refers to the average of data for July and August.

percent.

- o The average food stamp household included 2.7 people, but there was substantial variation among different household types. For instance, an average of 3.9 people constituted a household where school-age children were present, while households with elderly members averaged only 1.5 persons. Fifty-two percent of all food stamp households contained only one or two people.
- o Seventy-three percent of the heads of food stamp households were women.
- o About 51 percent of all the people participating in the Food Stamp Program (FSP) were children (less than 18 years old). Another 8 percent were elderly (60 years old or older).
- o Twenty percent of all food stamp households had at least one elderly member. Eighty-nine percent of all elderly participants lived alone or with one other person (usually elderly as well).

A comparison of survey data from summer 1986 with the results of the current survey shows that:

- o Average monthly gross income increased from \$417 per household in summer 1986 to \$426 in the summer of 1987.
- o The percentage of households with gross income below half the poverty line was unchanged at 39 percent.
- o The average value of total deductions increased from \$203 to \$205, and average net income also increased from \$222 to \$239.
- o The average monthly food stamp benefit was unchanged at \$120 per household.

INTRODUCTION

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is a nationwide program which helps low-income families and individuals buy the foods they need to maintain a nutritious diet. This assistance is in the form of coupons that can be redeemed for food in authorized food stores, thus increasing the purchasing power of low-income households. The program is authorized by Congress, administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), and operated by State welfare agencies and their local offices. In an average month, about 19.1 million people received food stamp benefits during fiscal year 1987 at a total program cost of \$11.6 billion.

Since food stamp benefits add to the resources available to low-income households, the FSP can be considered part of the Federal income maintenance system. It is distinct from other income maintenance programs in two important ways. First, it is designed to provide nutritional assistance to low-income households. Thus, program benefits--the food stamps--can be used only to buy food. Second, the program is distinguished by the absence of categorical restrictions on eligibility and participation. Unlike Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), for example, program eligibility is not limited to specific types of people (parents with dependent children, the elderly, or the disabled). Instead, the FSP is available to all who meet the income and resource standards set by Congress. Thus, program participants represent a broad spectrum of the low-income population.

FNS has conducted periodic surveys of food stamp households to determine the characteristics and circumstances of program beneficiaries. This report presents the results of a survey of 11,000 participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The report has two objectives: to describe the economic and demographic circumstances of food stamp participants in the summer of 1987 and to examine changes in these circumstances from summer 1986.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the structure, size, and economic context of the Food Stamp Program in the summer of 1987. Chapter 2 describes summer 1987 food stamp household circumstances in some detail, while Chapter 3 looks at trends in household circumstances and caseload composition from 1986 to 1987 by comparing the summer 1986 sample with summer 1987. Chapter 4 presents an extensive set of detailed tabulations of household characteristics in the summer of 1987. The appendixes to this report contain supplemental tables and a brief description of the sample design. A new appendix on the sampling error of the estimates presented in this report has been added.

CHAPTER 1: AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The number and characteristics of households participating in the Food Stamp Program (FSP) vary somewhat over time. Several factors contribute to these variations. Legislative changes to eligibility requirements are partially responsible. The economic status of the Nation as well as underlying demographic trends may also affect the program's level of participation and characteristics of participating households. This chapter provides some background on the general circumstances of the FSP in the summer of 1987.

The chapter begins with an overview of program changes between 1986 and 1987 and a review of eligibility requirements. This is followed by a brief summary of total program participation and costs as well as economic conditions in fiscal year 1987.

Program Changes Since Last Year

The Food Stamp Program was affected by several new pieces of legislation implemented in fiscal year 1987. First, the Human Services Reauthorization Act required that all direct and indirect Low-Income Home Energy Assistance benefits be included in the calculation of the food stamp shelter deduction, which could mean higher food stamp allotments for some energy assistance recipients. Second, the Higher Education Amendments excluded educational assistance provided for books, supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses as income or resources for the purpose of food stamp benefit calculations. (Tuition and mandatory fees were already excluded.) Third, a technical amendment in the continuing resolution brought the dependent care deduction for households with elderly and/or disabled members in line with the deduction for all other households by fixing it at \$160 a month. Finally, the Homeless Eligibility Clarification Act gave soup kitchens and shelters the option of accepting food stamps as payment for the cost of food provided in meals for the homeless.

Program Eligibility Requirements

The Food Stamp Act defines the group of people who comprise a household for food stamp purposes and sets uniform criteria for their eligibility. These criteria include a gross and net income limit, a resource limit, and a variety of nonfinancial criteria. Each of these is discussed briefly below.

Income Eligibility Standards

To be eligible for food stamps, the gross monthly income of most households had to be at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines (\$14,560 annually for a family of four), and their net income had to be at or below 100 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines (\$11,200 annually for a family of four).¹ Households with an elderly or disabled member were subject only to the net income test described below. Gross income included all cash payments to the households with the exception of a few specific types excluded by law or regulation (such as loans, nonrecurring lump sum payments, and reimbursement of certain expenses). The following deductions were then subtracted from the household's gross monthly income to determine its net income:

- o A standard deduction adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the cost of living. The standard deduction was \$102 in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia in the summer of 1987.
- o An earned income deduction for working households equal to 20 percent of the combined earnings of household members.
- o A dependent care deduction for the expenses involved in caring for children or other dependents while household members worked or sought employment. The maximum value which could be claimed under this deduction was capped at \$160.
- o An excess shelter deduction for those shelter costs (such as rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, property taxes, and insurance) that exceeded 50 percent of the household's income remaining after all other deductions were taken. The limit in the summer of 1987 for households living in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia was \$149.² The limit is adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the cost of living. Households with an elderly (age 60 or older) or disabled member were exempted from this limit: they were entitled to subtract the full value of all shelter

¹Income eligibility standards are updated every year. The figures supplied in this text were effective from July 1, 1987, through September 30, 1988, for all States and territories except Alaska and Hawaii, which have higher standards. See appendix B for the full array of monthly standards.

²Both the standard deduction and ceiling on the value of the excess shelter deductions in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and the Virgin Islands were adjusted to reflect price differences from the mainland. See appendix C for the value of each in the summer of 1987.

costs greater than 50 percent of their adjusted income.

- o A special medical deduction limited to households with an elderly or disabled member. These households could deduct all medical costs exceeding \$35 incurred by the elderly or disabled person. Medical expenses reimbursed by insurance or government programs were not deductible. If a household contained more than one disabled or elderly person, then it could deduct the combined medical expenses (for those disabled or elderly persons) that exceeded the elderly/disabled's initial \$35 charge.

After subtracting these allowable deductions from gross income, the household's net income was then compared to a table of monthly income limits based on the official poverty guidelines published by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). These guidelines vary by household size and are updated annually to reflect changes in the cost of living. The Food Stamp Program income limits were adjusted in July to correspond to the most recent DHHS poverty guidelines. In the summer of 1987, a four-person family living in one of the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Guam, or the Virgin Islands could qualify for the program with a net monthly income of \$934 and a gross monthly income of \$1,214 or less.³

Resource Eligibility Standards

The value of a household's assets is also accounted for in determining program eligibility. Most households were permitted up to \$2,000 in countable resources. Households with at least one person age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000. Countable resources included cash on hand and assets which could easily be converted to cash, such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments. Assets also included nonliquid assets; however, the family home and lot, one family vehicle if under \$4,500 in value, and tools of a trade and business property used in earning the family income were not counted in determining eligibility.

Nonfinancial Eligibility Standards

People could qualify for benefits only as part of a "food stamp household." The household consists of those persons whose income and resources are summed to determine program eligibility and benefits. Many means-tested assistance programs define the household in slightly different ways, largely to target benefits to particular individuals such as the elderly or children.

³Separate income limits were computed for Alaska and Hawaii. See appendix B for the full array for each household size.

In general terms, a food stamp household consisted of an individual who lived alone or who lived with others but usually purchased and prepared food separately; and groups of individuals who lived, purchased food, and prepared meals together. A parent or parents, under 60 years of age and living with their children, were counted as a single household regardless of their food preparation practices. Also, an individual 60 years or older (and spouse) who was unable to purchase and prepare meals due to a permanent disability may constitute a separate household provided such individual lived with others whose income did not exceed 165 percent of the poverty level. Some restrictions were placed on the participation of aliens, students, strikers, and residents of institutions. The income, resources, and deductible expenses of all persons in the food stamp household were counted to determine the household's eligibility for benefits.

The FSP included several provisions to encourage able-bodied participants to seek and hold jobs. With certain exceptions, physically and mentally fit food stamp participants had to register for and accept suitable employment. The exceptions to this work registration requirement included:

- o People under 18 or over 60 years of age.
- o People who are physically or mentally disabled.
- o People participating in AFDC's work incentive program (WIN).
- o Caretakers of dependent children less than 6 years old or incapacitated adults.
- o People receiving unemployment compensation.
- o Participants in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation programs.
- o People who were working at least 30 hours per week.
- o Selected types of students.

An active job search was required of some work registrants. Furthermore, applicant households whose primary wage earner voluntarily quit a job without good cause were made ineligible for 90 days.

Benefit Computation

The maximum amount of food stamps a household could receive was equal to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) in June 1986, adjusted for household size. The maximum allotments are revised

periodically to reflect changes in the cost of foods included in the TFP. The maximum allotment for a family of four in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia was \$271 per month during fiscal year 1987.⁴

The food stamp benefit issued to each household was based on the number of people in the household and the amount of net income available after subtracting the allowable deductions. Monthly benefits were equal to the maximum coupon allotment for that household less 30 percent of its net income. Benefits were prorated to the date of application during the initial month of participation. All one- and two-person households that qualified for the program, however, were guaranteed a minimum benefit of at least \$10 per month (except the initial month on the program).

Food Stamp Program Participation and Costs

Participation in the FSP declined slightly between fiscal years 1981 and 1982. By late 1982, participation had begun to increase, reaching an historic high level of 22.6 million persons in March 1983. This peak was followed by a relatively steady decline in the number of food stamp recipients. With the exception of seasonal increases during winter months, this decrease in participation continued through September 1987, at which point 18.6 million persons were participating in the FSP (see fig. 1). This was the lowest level of participation in the 50 States and the District of Columbia since January 1980. Between fiscal years 1986 and 1987, the average monthly participation declined 1.6 percent from 19.4 to 19.1 million persons.

The reduced number of participants and the higher allotments combined to keep total program costs virtually unchanged between fiscal years 1986 and 1987. The maximum allotment for a family of four increased 1.1 percent, from \$268 to \$271, between the two fiscal years. Total Federal costs in fiscal year 1987 were \$11.6 billion, of which \$10.5 billion were issued in benefits. The amount of food stamp benefits issued in fiscal year 1987 decreased by 0.1 percent, or \$105 million from fiscal year 1986. Other program costs, which include State administrative expenses, increased \$52 million from \$1,091 million in fiscal year 1986 to \$1,143 million in fiscal year 1987.

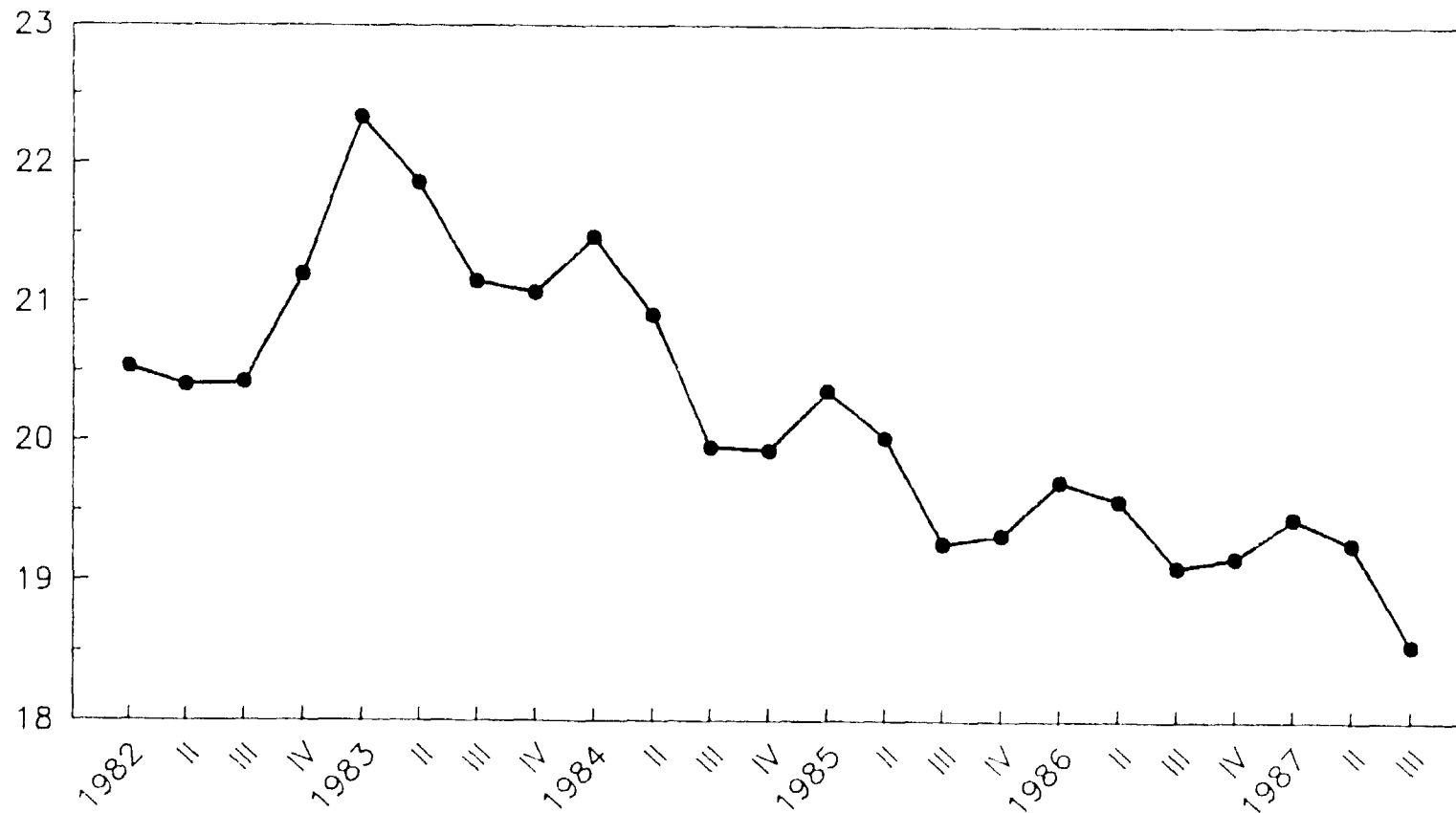
⁴Separate plans were developed for selected outlying areas. The maximum coupon allotment for each household size in the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia and outlying areas is shown in appendix D.

FIGURE 1

FSP Average Monthly Participation by Individuals

Calendar Years 1982 - 1987, by Quarter
(In Millions)

FSP Participation



Calendar Years 1982 - 1987

Source: FSP Statistical Summary of Operations

Note: Participation in Puerto Rico is excluded.

In the summer of 1987, the time period on which the remainder of this report focuses, average monthly program costs were about \$927 million, of which \$841 million were in the form of benefits. Program data additionally indicate that per-person benefits in the summer of 1987 averaged \$45.18.

An Overview of Economic Developments through 1987

The recession, which began in 1981 and continued through early 1983, was followed by a very rapid, strong recovery beginning in late 1983 (see table 1). The unemployment rate declined from a high of 10.7 percent in November and December 1982 to 8.2 percent in December 1983. By the end of 1987, the unemployment rate had dropped to 5.9 percent (see fig. 2). The poverty rate increased from 1982 to 1983, but then declined from 15.2 percent in 1983 to 13.5 percent in 1987 (see table 1).

Inflation dropped significantly from 1982 to 1983 and continued to decline through 1986 (see table 1). The cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) for a family of four increased 4.6 percent from fiscal year 1986 to 1987 compared to an 11-percent increase from September 1979 to September 1980 and an average increase of 2.6 percent for 1982 through 1987.

Table 1--Major economic indicators, calendar years 1982-1987
(average annual rates in percent)

Economic indicator	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Real GNP increase ^a	-2.5%	3.6%	6.8%	3.0%	2.9%	2.9%
Productivity increase ^b	-0.6	3.3	2.1	1.2	1.6	0.8
Unemployment rate ^c	9.7	9.6	7.5	7.2	7.0	6.2
Inflation rate ^d	6.4	3.9	3.7	3.2	2.6	3.0
Interest rates ^e	13.8	12.0	12.7	11.4	9.0	9.4
Number of persons below 100 percent of poverty level (in thousands)	34,398	35,303	33,700	33,064	32,370	32,546
Percentage of total population	15.0%	15.2%	14.4%	14.0%	13.6%	13.5%

^aPercent change from preceding period, table B-2.

^bPercent change in output per hour, nonfarm business sector, table B-47.

^cAll civilian workers, table B-39.

^dChange in implicit price deflator for gross national product, table B-3.

^eCorporate Aaa bond yield, table B-71.

Source for first five lines of data: "Economic Report of the President," Washington, D.C., February 1988.

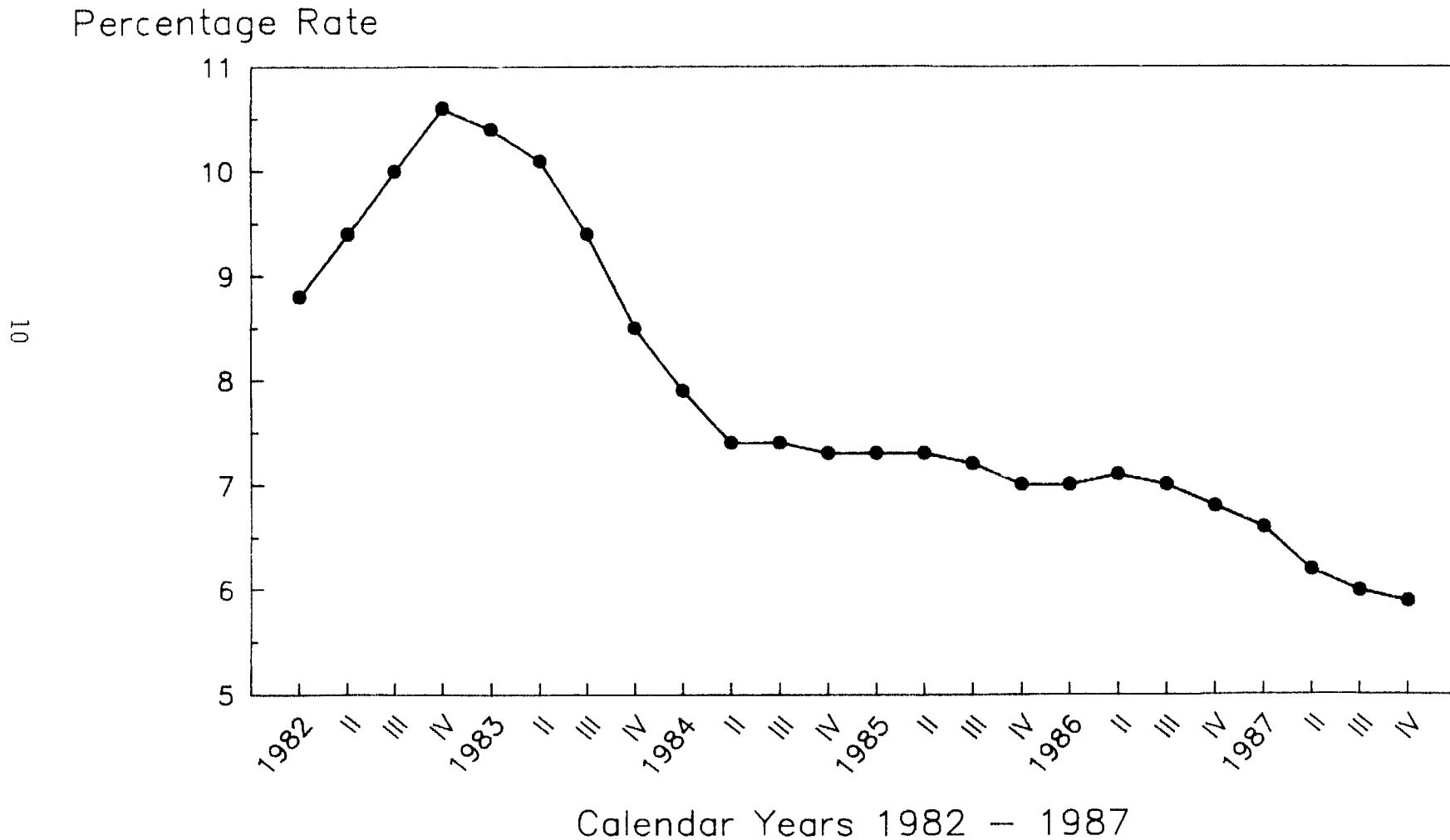
Source for last two lines of data: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 161, Money Income and Poverty Status in the United States: 1987 (Advance Data from the March 1988 Current Population Survey), Washington, D.C., 1988.

FIGURE 2

Unemployment Rate for Civilians

Calendar Years 1982 – 1987 by Quarter

Data Seasonally Adjusted and Averaged over Qtrs



Source: 1984 and 1988 Economic Reports
of the President

CHAPTER 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS

Slightly over 18.7 million people in almost 6.9 million households received food stamp benefits in the summer of 1987.¹ This chapter addresses basic questions about the characteristics of these households by looking at their income, deductions, benefits, assets, and household composition in some detail. The results presented here portray a cross section of the program's caseload. Most of the information deals with characteristics of the entire food stamp household. In some cases, however, characteristics of individual participants are also presented. Additional information about each topic can be found in the detailed tabulations of chapter 4.

Gross Monthly Income

The average gross income of all participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia was \$426 per month.² Six percent reported no gross income in the summer of 1987; about 54 percent reported a monthly income of less than \$400 (see fig. 3). Only 21 percent had monthly gross income of \$600 or more.

The distribution of gross income was heavily influenced by the large number of small households in the program. Over 48 percent of all the households with income below \$400 were single-person households. About 81 percent of all single-person households had an income below \$400, compared to just 17 percent of those with at least six members. There were several reasons for this pattern. The food stamp income eligibility limits vary with household size, making small households ineligible at lower incomes than large households. Transfer payments from other welfare programs also tend to increase with household size.

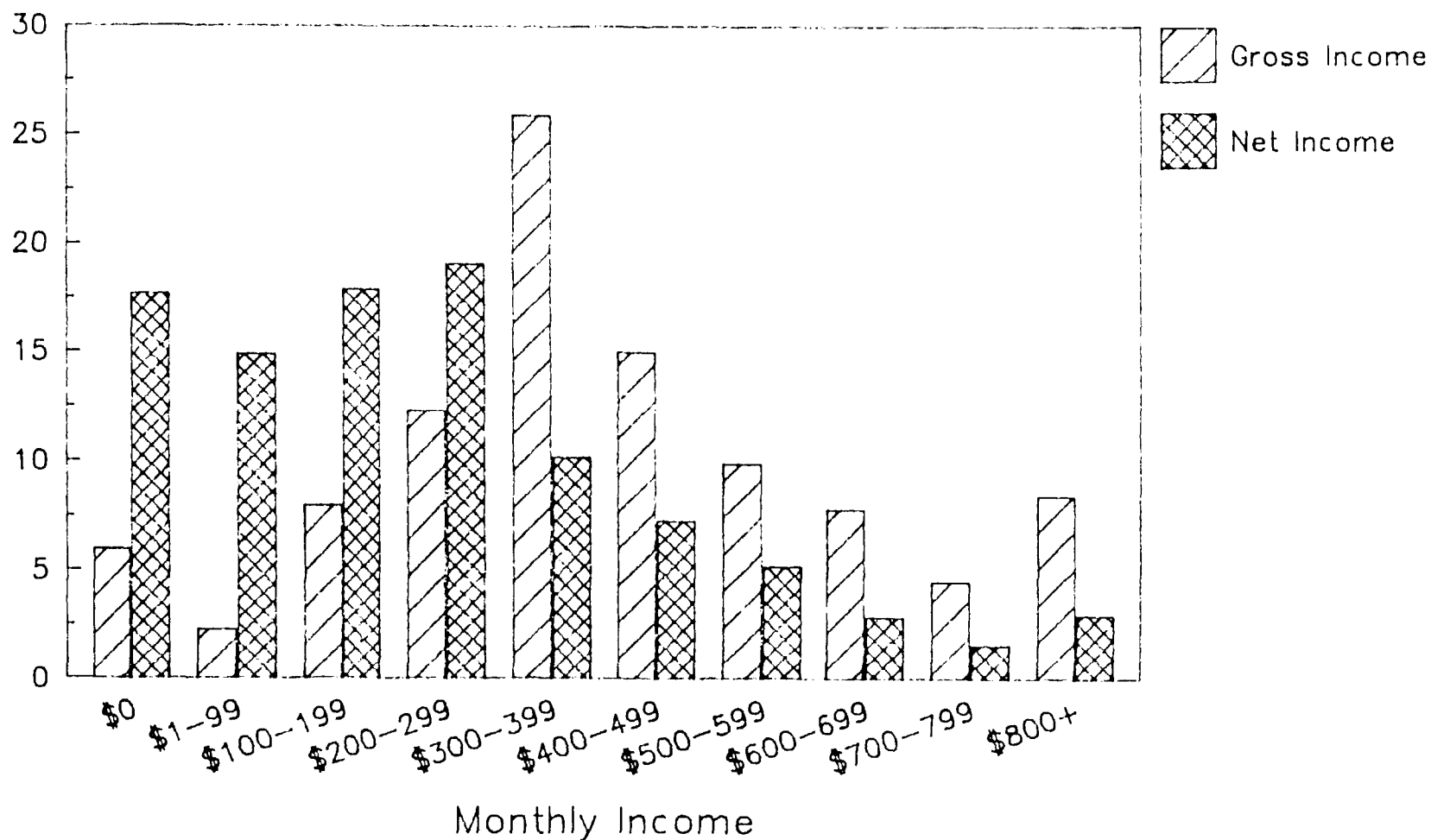
¹The information reported here and in chapter 4 is limited to summer 1987 food stamp participants in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. There were an additional 38,000 participants in Guam and the Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico, which until July 1982 had participated in the FSP, served participants through its Nutritional Assistance Program, and the Northern Mariana Islands also participated in a block grant program.

²It should be noted that the statistics reported in this and subsequent sections are based on information recorded in food stamp casefiles by State eligibility workers. These figures have not been corrected for possible underreporting or nonreporting of income.

FIGURE 3

Distribution of Food Stamp Households by Monthly Gross and Net Incomes Summer 1987

Percent of Households



Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control
Sample

One way to account for the influence of household size on gross income is to examine the status of food stamp households with respect to the official definition of poverty.³ As shown in table 2, about 94 percent of all food stamp households had total income that was less than or equal to the poverty line. This includes about 39 percent who had total income at or below half the poverty guidelines.

Net Monthly Income

A household's net income was determined by subtracting the deductions described in chapter 1 from its gross monthly income. The level of net income then determined the household's eligibility and monthly benefit. Average net income was \$239 per month in the summer of 1987. About 18 percent of all households had no net income after subtracting the allowable deductions from their gross income. These households received the maximum coupon allotment. Seven out of 10 participating households had net income less than \$300 per month and over 92 percent had net income under \$600 a month.

Sources of Income

As table 3 shows, a large number of food stamp households also received cash benefits from at least one of the major income transfer programs (AFDC, Social Security, and SSI). At the same time, there was a substantial number of households that supplemented limited earnings with food stamp benefits. About 81 percent of all households had income from at least one of these sources.

³As noted above, the definition of poverty is adjusted for household size. The poverty guidelines used by the FSP in the summer of 1987 are shown in appendix A. A word of caution is in order when comparisons are made to the poverty population defined by the Bureau of the Census. Census counts households as poor if their annual cash income falls below the poverty guidelines. In contrast, households were eligible for food stamps if their monthly cash income fell below the program's income limits. Since household income may vary from month to month, a household may be eligible for food stamps in one month, but ineligible the next. Therefore, some households eligible for food stamps for one or more months may have annual incomes above the poverty line. On the other hand, households with assets worth more than the food stamp asset limit could be ineligible for food stamps in any month, although their monthly and annual incomes are well below the poverty guideline.

Table 2--Poverty status of food stamp households, summer 1987

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Percent of all households	Cumulative percent
50% or less	39.0	39.0
51 to 100	54.8	93.8
101 to 130	5.8	99.6
131 or more	0.4	100.0
Number of households (in thousands)	6,881	6,881

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 3--Major sources of income among food stamp households,
summer 1987

(numbers in thousands)

Major sources of income	<u>Food stamp households</u> ^a	
	Number	Percent
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	2,806	40.8
Earnings ^b	1,389	20.2
Social Security and Railroad Retirement	1,409	20.5
Supplemental Security Income	1,431	20.8
Total participating households	6,881	

^aSince not all sources of income are listed and households may have income from more than one source, numbers do not add to the total number of participating households and percentages do not add to 100 percent.

^bIncludes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children

About 41 percent of all food stamp households received AFDC benefits. On average, these households supplemented \$105 from other sources with a \$370 AFDC payment, for a total gross income of \$475 per month. Two-thirds of these households, however, had no income other than the AFDC grant.

Earned Income

About 20 percent of all food stamp households reported earned income from some source. Households with earned income were generally larger and had substantially higher income than nonearners. The average household size for those with earnings was 3.7 people. For these households, average earnings amounted to \$502 out of an average gross income of \$642 per month. Fifty-two percent of households with earned income reported no income other than earnings.

Social Security and Railroad Retirement

Nearly 21 percent of all food stamp households received income from Retirement, Survivors' and Disability Insurance (also called Social Security) benefits averaging about \$335 per month. About 28 percent of these households had no other source of income; about 50 percent also received Federal SSI payments.

Supplemental Security Income

About 21 percent of all food stamp households received SSI payments. The average Federal SSI benefit was \$241 per month. This was the only source of income for about 28 percent of these households. One-half received SSI in combination with Social Security benefits.

Deductions From Gross Income

The Food Stamp Act provides for deductions from gross income when determining household eligibility and benefits. In the summer of 1987, these included a standard deduction for all households, earned income and dependent care deductions for employed households, a medical deduction for the elderly and disabled, and an excess shelter expense deduction. Each of the dependent care and excess shelter deductions had limits on the size of the deduction available to households. Households could claim up to a maximum of \$160 for the dependent care deduction. The excess shelter deduction limit was \$149, with elderly and disabled households exempted from this limit.

Almost 80 percent of all food stamp households claimed at least one deduction other than the standard. The average deduction to which households were entitled, including the value of the standard, was \$205 per month. The average entitlement for all deductions other than the standard was \$105 per month.

A distinction should be made between a household's deduction entitlement and the amount actually used to compute food stamp benefits. The entitlement is the deduction that a household would receive on the basis of its earned income, dependent care costs, shelter costs, and medical expenses if the total of these allowable deductions was less than its gross income. Households with total deductions greater than their gross income "used" only a portion of their deduction entitlement since any negative net income was treated as zero in computing benefits. The value of the deductions actually used in computing household benefits in the summer of 1987, that is, the difference between average gross and average net income, was \$187, or 91 percent of the average total deduction entitlement of food stamp households.

The frequency with which the different deductions were claimed varied considerably. The excess shelter deduction was claimed by about 71 percent of all participating households. The average value of the shelter deduction among those who claimed it was \$114 per month. Twenty-five percent of all food stamp households (and 35 percent of those claiming the excess shelter deduction) were affected by the ceiling placed on the value of the excess shelter deduction. Households with elderly or disabled members are not subject to the cap. As a result, 6 percent of all food stamp households (19 percent of the elderly households) claimed a deduction above the cap. The average shelter deduction among these exempted households was \$232 per month.

Twenty percent of all food stamp households claimed the earned income deduction, averaging \$101 per month. In contrast, both the dependent care and medical deductions were used relatively infrequently. For those who were able to claim one or the other, however, they provided a substantial deduction from gross income. The dependent care deduction was claimed by about 2.4 percent of all participating households with an average claim of \$100 among those claiming the deduction. The medical deduction was claimed by about 2.7 percent of all participating households. The average claim among those with this deduction was \$77.

Food Stamp Benefits

The average summer monthly food stamp benefit reported in this

survey was \$120 per household (or about \$44.03 per person).⁴ Nine percent of the households received the minimum \$10 benefit guaranteed to one- and two-person households.

Targeting Benefits to the Most Needy

The FSP is designed to target benefits to those households most in need. Poorer households relative to the poverty guideline receive larger benefits than households with more income. Table 4 demonstrates the extent of benefit targeting in the program in the summer of 1987. Only 39 percent of all households had income at 50 percent or less of the poverty guideline, yet these households received almost 60 percent of all food stamp benefits issued. In contrast, many more households (55 percent) had income between 51 and 100 percent of the poverty guideline but received only 40 percent of the benefits.

Effect on Poverty Status

The previous discussion of gross income levels showed that food stamp participants generally fell well below the poverty line. The official definition of poverty is based on the cash income of household members before taxes and after cash transfer payments, but it does not include the value of in-kind benefits such as food stamps. If the FSP is viewed in the general context of income maintenance programs, however, it can be argued that food stamp benefits, which increase a household's total resources, should be included in any measurement of a household's poverty status. In this way, the effect of food stamp benefits in reducing the number of households in poverty can also be measured. Table 5 compares the poverty status of participating households before the transfer of food stamp benefits, based on cash income only, and after the transfer, counting the value of food stamps received along with cash income.⁵

By counting food stamp benefits along with cash income, the percentage of food stamp households below the poverty line fell from 94 percent to 90 percent. In other words, 4 percent of the participating households were moved above the poverty line as a

⁴In comparison to the sample survey data reported here, Food Stamp Program administrative data for 1987 show an average summer monthly benefit of \$120.53 per household and \$45.18 per person.

⁵This comparison assumes that program participants value their food stamp benefits at face value. For a general discussion of this and related issues, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Technical Paper No. 50, "Alternative Methods for Valuing Selected In-Kind Transfer Benefits and Measuring Their Effect on Poverty," Washington, D.C., 1982.

Table 4--Distribution of households and benefits by poverty line,
summer 1987

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Percent of all households	Percent of all benefits
50% or less	39.0	58.2
51 - 100	54.8	39.7
101 - 130	5.8	1.9
131 or more	0.4	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 5--Effect of food stamp benefits on poverty status of food stamp households,
summer 1987

Income as a percent of poverty	Distribution of households in relation to poverty line		Change in percentage points
	Based on cash only	Based on cash and food stamps	
50% or less	39%	15%	-24
51 to 100	55	75	+20
101 or more	6	10	+ 4
Number of households (in thousands)	6,881	6,881	

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

result of their food stamp benefit. Program benefits had an even greater effect on the poorest households; 24 percent of the participating households were moved to at least half of the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit. The proportion of food stamp households above the poverty line increased (from 6 to 10 percent) when food stamp benefits were counted, while the proportion remaining below half of the poverty line was reduced by almost two-thirds (from 39 to 15 percent).

Assets

The summer 1987 survey collected limited information on the assets of participating households. Seventy-five percent of all food stamp households had no assets counted toward the resource limit. Another 19 percent had countable assets of \$500 or less. The remaining 6 percent of households had assets of between \$501 and \$3,000.

Households with elderly members had somewhat higher asset levels, but only 6 percent of these households had \$1,000 or more in countable resources in spite of a higher resource limit (\$3,000 for each household). Across all households, countable assets averaged \$79 in the summer of 1987, while households with elderly members had an average of \$182.

Caseload Composition

The average size of a food stamp household was about 2.7 persons in the summer of 1987, but there was considerable variation among different household types. The average for households with school-age children, for example, was 3.9 persons. Households with children of any age contained an average of 3.7 persons. Households with earned income also had an average of 3.7 persons. Households with one or more elderly members contained an average of only 1.5 persons. Over one-half (52 percent) of all food stamp households contained only one or two people.

The heads of food stamp households were predominantly female (73 percent). Forty-seven percent were white, 36 percent black, and about 12 percent were of Hispanic origin.

The age distribution of all people receiving food stamps reflects the large percentage (61 percent) of food stamp households with children and the larger average size of these households. About 51 percent of all food stamp participants were children 17 years old or younger. Another 8 percent were 60 years or older. Thus, about 60 percent of all food stamp participants were either young or old.

Households With Children

Almost 83 percent of all food stamp benefits in the summer of 1986 were issued to households with children, over 61 percent of all participating households. These households were predominantly headed by women (82 percent). About 73 percent of the households headed by women with children received AFDC.

Households with children were typically larger, and had higher income yet lower per-person income, than households without children. The average size of a household with children was 3.7 persons, compared to an average of 1.2 persons in households without children. The average gross income among households with children was \$498 per month (\$135 per person), compared to \$313 per month (\$261 per person) in those without children. Households with children received an average food stamp benefit of \$162 per month (\$44 per person) while those without children received \$54 per month (\$45 per person).

Households With Elderly

Households with elderly members accounted for 20.5 percent of the total food stamp caseload in the summer of 1987, but since those households were smaller on average and had relatively higher income, they received 8.2 percent of all benefits issued that period. Eighty-nine percent of all elderly participants either lived by themselves or with one other person.

After adjusting for the differences in household size, households with elderly members had relatively higher income than those without elderly members. Average gross income per person among households with elderly members was \$280 versus \$142 per month for households without elderly members.

Similarly, the average net income of \$159 per person in elderly households was almost double the \$80 per person found in nonelderly households. Thus, average benefits per person were 30 percent less among the elderly--\$32 versus \$46 per month. About 30 percent of the households with elderly members received the minimum \$10 benefit.

Households With Earned Income

About 20 percent of all food stamp households reported earned income in the summer of 1987. They received a proportionate share (24 percent) of the benefits issued that period.

About 9 percent of all household heads were employed in full-time jobs (that is, working at least 30 hours per week). Another 4 percent were working part time, and less than 1 percent were self-employed.

As noted in the earlier discussion of income sources, households with earned income were generally larger than average and somewhat more likely to include children. Consequently, their gross incomes were substantially larger than those of households without earnings (\$642 versus \$371). They received an average per-capita benefit of about \$38, compared to \$46 among households without earned income.

Work Registration

Able-bodied food stamp participants age 18 to 59 were required to register for work and accept employment if offered. Table 6 shows that 52 percent of all adult participants under the age of 60 were either employed full time or met the work registration requirements of the FSP, AFDC (WIN participants), or unemployment insurance (UI).

Of all food stamp participants, approximately 63 percent were exempted from work requirements on the basis of their age or disability. This reflects the large number of children and elderly participants in the FSP. Twenty-eight percent of all the adults in the program and 12 percent of all participants were exempted from work registration because they were responsible for the care of young children or incapacitated adults, the second most frequent kind of exemption. Nearly 8 percent of all food stamp participants were registered for work.

Table 6--Work registration status of food stamp participants,
summer 1987

Work registration status	Percentage of nonelderly adult participants (18-59 years)	Percentage of all participants ^a
<u>Meeting work requirement:</u>		
Registered for work	18.9	7.8
<u>Exempted from food stamp registration:</u>		
Employed full time	9.7	3.9
WIN participants	21.9	9.3
UI recipients	1.3	0.5
<u>Exempted from work requirement:</u>		
24 Caretakers of children and incapacitated adults	28.0	11.5
Residents of drug addiction/ alcohol treatment centers	0.6	0.3
Students	1.8	2.2
Less than 18, over 60, or disabled ^b	14.1	62.5
Number of participants (in thousands)	7,543	18,748

^aPercent for those participants with known work registration status. Totals do not add to 100% due to exclusion of participants with unknown work registration status.

^bFor adults, the figure includes disabled participants only.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

CHAPTER 3: CHANGES IN FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

This chapter describes some of the changes in the composition and circumstances of the food stamp caseload from 1986 to 1987 by looking at survey results from summer 1986 and summer 1987. Several factors should be considered when interpreting the results presented here. Since this analysis is based on a cross-sectional sample, it cannot determine whether differences in caseload characteristics are due to changes in the circumstances of continuing participants, to changes in the circumstances of new participants, or some combination of both. Nor can a cross-sectional analysis disaggregate the separate impacts of food stamp legislation, changes in other related social programs, or changes in the economy. A longitudinal sample, which tracks characteristics of the same households over time, is a better measure of these effects as well as changes in the behavior of individual participants.

Changes in Income

Average monthly gross income increased from \$417 per household in summer 1986 to \$426 in summer 1987 (see table 7). After adjusting for inflation, real gross income decreased by 2 percent. Real net income for food stamp households decreased by a little more than 1 percent.

The distribution of households, with respect to the official poverty guidelines (as shown in table 8), remains constant. Since the poverty line varies by household size and is adjusted each year to reflect changes in the cost of living, this standard also provides a measure of real changes in income. The percentage of households with gross income less than or equal to half the poverty line, for instance, changed less than 1 percent in real terms. For those households with income above this level, the change was about the same.

Changes in Deductions

Nominal average total deductions increased from \$203 to \$205 between summer 1986 and summer 1987. The percentage of the potential or entitlement deduction that was claimed in the summer

Table 7--Average nominal and real monthly income of food stamp participants, summer 1986 and summer 1987

	Summer 1986	Summer 1987		Percentage change	
		Nominal	Real ^a	Nominal	Real ^a
<u>Average gross income</u>					
Per household	\$417	\$426	\$409	+2.2%	-1.9%
Per person	154	158	152	+2.6	-1.3
<u>Average net income</u>					
Per household	232	239	230	+3.0	-1.0
Per person	86	89	85	+3.5	-1.2

^aAdjusted by change in CPI for all items between summer 1986 and summer 1987.

Source: Summer 1986 and summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 8--Comparison of poverty status of participating households, summer 1986 and summer 1987

(percent of all households)

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Summer 1986	Summer 1987
50% or less	39.3%	39.0%
51 - 100%	54.1	54.8
101 - 150%	6.5	5.8
151% or more	0.1	0.4
Number of households (in thousands)	7,101	6,881

Source: Summer 1986 and summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

of 1987 was 90 percent, identical to the proportion in summer 1986.¹

As table 9 shows, the percentage of food stamp households that claimed each deduction changed only slightly. The most frequently used deduction--with the exception of the standard available to every household--was the excess shelter deduction, claimed by 71 percent of the participating households. The earned income deduction was claimed by 20 percent of all food stamp households. Both the dependent care and the medical deductions resulted in substantial deductions when they were claimed--an average of \$100 and \$77 per month, respectively, in summer 1987. However, because so few households claimed these particular deductions, they did not have much impact on the overall level of deductions.

Changes in Benefits

Average per-capita benefits are a function of net income and the maximum food stamp allotment. Since net income is calculated by subtracting allowable deductions from gross income, changes in average gross income or deductions will have an effect on average benefits. The \$120 average monthly benefit did not change from summer 1986 to summer 1987. In addition, the distribution of food stamp benefit amounts stayed substantially the same during this period, even after accounting for the effect of food price inflation (see table 10). Mean benefits decreased by 3.3 percent in real terms, however, from 1986 to 1987.

Table 11 presents the sources of change in average food stamp benefits. Average gross and net incomes, deductions, and benefits adjusted by the change in the CPI for all items between summer 1986 and summer 1987 are provided. The table shows modest decreases in the average real gross income of food stamp households (down 1.7 percent), the average real total deductions claimed (down 3.0 percent), and average real net income (down 0.9 percent) in constant summer 1986 dollars.

¹It is important to recall the distinction between the deduction to which a household was entitled and the deduction actually used (or claimed) to compute food stamp benefits. The actual average amount households could actually claim, given their gross income, rose slightly from \$185 in summer 1986 to \$187 in summer 1987, but in real terms this was a decrease of about 3 percent. The average deduction to which households were entitled rose from \$203 to \$205, but again this represented a 3-percent real decrease in 1986 dollars.

Table 9--Frequency and value of deductions from gross income,
summer 1986 and summer 1987

Type of deduction	Percent of households with deduction		Average value of deduction ^b		
	Summer 1986	Summer 1987	Summer 1986	Summer 1987	Percent change
Standard	100	100	\$98	\$99	+1.0%
Earned income	21	20	97	101	+4.1
Dependent care	2	2	91	100	+9.9
Excess shelter	72	71	112	114	+1.8
Medical	3	3	75	77	+2.7
Total deduction ^a					
Excluding standard	80	79	105	106	+1.0
Including standard	100	100	203	205	+1.0
Number of households (in thousands)	7,101	6,881			

^aAverage total deduction to which households were entitled. The average deduction actually claimed was \$185 in summer 1986, \$187 in summer 1987.

^bFor households claiming the deduction.

Source: Summer 1986 and summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 10--Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit, summer 1986 and summer 1987

Average monthly food stamp benefit	Summer 1986	Summer 1987	
	Nominal	Nominal	Real ^a
\$50 or less	22%	23%	23%
51 to 100	28	27	28
101 to 150	20	20	21
151 to 200	12	13	12
201 or more	18	17	16
Number of households (in thousands)	7,101	6,881	
Mean benefit	\$120	\$120	\$116

^aBenefit adjusted by change in CPI for food at home between summer 1986 and summer 1987

Source: Summer 1986 and summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 11--Sources of change in average food stamp benefits
summer 1986 and summer 1987

	Summer 1986	Summer 1987		Percent change	
		Nominal	Real ^a	Nominal	Real ^a
Average gross income	\$417	\$426	\$410	+2.2	-1.7
Average total deduction	\$203	\$205	\$197	+0.9	-3.0
Average net income	\$232	\$239	\$230	+3.0	-0.9
Average household benefit	\$120	\$120	\$116	0	-3.4
Maximum coupon allotment (for family of four)	\$268	\$271	\$261	+1.1	-2.7
Consumer Price Index					
All items	\$328.30	\$341.75		+4.1	
Food at home	\$307.20	\$319.05		+3.9	

^aAdjusted by changes in the CPI for food at home between summer 1986 and summer 1987.

Source: Summer 1986 and summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Changes in Household Composition

The basic character of the food stamp population remained relatively stable. As table 12 illustrates, the proportion of each of the major household types relative to the total remained fairly constant from summer 1986 to summer 1987.

Households With Children

Just as overall program participation remained substantially the same between summer 1986 and summer 1987, the percent of food stamp households with children stayed constant at 61 percent.

Households With Elderly

In summer 1987 there were approximately 1.4 million elderly households in the FSP. The proportion and number of elderly households remained fairly constant.

Households With Earnings

The number of food stamp households with earned income fell by 7 percent from summer 1986 to summer 1987. Likewise the proportion of households with earned income decreased, but by less than 1 percent.

Table 12--Changes in food stamp caseload composition,
summer 1986 and summer 1987^a

(numbers in thousands)

Major household type	Distribution of households				Percentage change in number of households
	Summer 1986		Summer 1987		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Households with children	4,344	61.2	4,208	61.2	- 3.1
Households with elderly	1,438	20.2	1,408	20.5	- 2.1
Households with earners	1,494	21.0	1,389	20.2	- 7.0
All households	7,101		6,881		- 3.1

^aColumns do not add to total because some food stamp households belong to more than one or to none of the categories included in the table.

Source: Summer 1986 and summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

CHAPTER 4: DETAILED TABLES FOR THE 50 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In the pages that follow, detailed tabulations of the characteristics of food stamp households and participants are presented. These tables are roughly ordered to provide information on the following topics:

- Average amounts and sources of income, both gross and net.
- Frequency and average amount of deductions from gross income.
- Average amount of monthly food stamp benefits and countable resources.
- Certification status of participating households.
- Age, race, and sex of food stamp participants.
- Employment and work registration status of food stamp participants and household heads.
- Summary statistics for households with earned income, with elderly members, with disabled members, with children, and with school-age children.
- Summary comparisons of yearly survey results from 1980 through 1987.

The reference population for each table, unless otherwise noted, is the food stamp caseload in the 50 States and the District of Columbia in the summer of 1987.¹

¹Summer 1987 refers to the average of data for July and August 1987. Household samples were taken from both July and August to maintain an adequate sample size given reduced annual State sample sizes.

LIST OF TABLES

o Summary of 1987 Characteristics

1--Aggregate summer 1987 participation totals	40
2--Average values of selected national caseload characteristics	41
3--Number and percentage of households with selected characteristics	42

o Income: Average Amounts and Sources of Income, Both Gross and Net

4--Distribution of participating households by gross and net monthly income	43
5--Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income and household size	44
6--Distribution of participating households by net monthly income and household size	45
7--Distribution of participating households by income source	46
8--Number of households, average income, and average benefit by selected income sources	47
9--Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children	48
10--Distribution of participating households by net monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children	49

o Deductions: Frequency and Average Amount from Gross Income

11--Number of participating households claiming deductions and value of deductions claimed	50
12--Distribution of participating households by amount of total deduction	51
13--Average total deduction for all households by gross monthly income and household size	52
14--Number of participating households claiming earned income deduction and value of deduction claimed	53

15--Distribution of participating households by amount of earned income deduction	54
16--Number of participating households claiming dependent care deduction and value of deduction claimed	55
17--Distribution of participating households by amount of dependent care deduction	56
18--Number of participating households claiming excess shelter deduction and value of deduction claimed . . .	57
19--Distribution of participating households by amount of excess shelter deduction	58
20--Distribution of participating households by the value of shelter deduction	59
21--Number of participating households claiming medical deduction and value of deduction claimed	60
22--Distribution of participating households by amount of medical deduction	61
o <u>Benefits and Resources:</u> Average Amount of Monthly Food Stamp Benefits	
23--Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit	62
24--Average monthly food stamp benefit by gross monthly income and household size	63
25--Distribution of participating households by total countable resources for all households and households with elderly or disabled	64
o <u>Certification:</u> Distribution of Participating Households	
26--Distribution of participating households by type of most recent action	65
27--Comparison of households with and without expedited service by presence of gross and net monthly income .	66
28--Distribution of participating households by length of certification period	67
29--Distribution of participating households by household size	68

o	<u>Age, Sex, Race:</u>	Food Stamp Participants	
	30--Sex- and age-related characteristics of participating households		69
	31--Distribution of participating households by household size, number of elderly, number of children, and number of school-age children		70
	32--Distribution of participants by age and sex		71
	33--Age-related characteristics of participants		72
	34--Distribution of participating households by race or ethnic origin of household head		73
	35--Distribution of participating households by selected characteristics of household members		74
o	<u>Employment, Work Registration:</u>	Food Stamp Participants and Household Heads	
	36--Distribution of participating households by employment status of household head		75
	37--Distribution of participating households by work registration status of household head		76
	38--Distribution of participants by work registration status		77
o	<u>Earned Income:</u>	Summary Statistics	
	39--Distribution of households and benefits for households with and without earned income		78
	40--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without earned income		79
	41--Number and percentage of households with and without earned income for selected characteristics		80
	42--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without earned income		81
o	<u>Elderly, Disabled, Children:</u>	Summary Statistics	
	43--Distribution of households and benefits for households with and without elderly		82

44--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without elderly	83
45--Number and percentage of households with and without elderly for selected characteristics	84
46--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without elderly	85
47--Distribution of households and benefits for households with and without disabled	86
48--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without disabled	87
49--Number and percentage of households with and without disabled for selected characteristics	88
50--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without disabled	89
51--Distribution of households and benefits for households with children, school-age children, and no children	90
52--Average value of selected characteristics for households with children, school-age children, and no children	91
53--Number and percentage of households with children, school-age children, and no children for selected characteristics	92
54--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with children, school-age children, and no children	93
55--Distribution of households and benefits for households with and without AFDC income	94
56--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without AFDC income	95
57--Number and percentage of households with and without AFDC income for selected characteristics	96
58--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without AFDC income	97

- o Survey Comparisons: 1981 through 1987
 - 59--Comparison of average value of selected characteristics for August 1981 - summer 198798
 - 60--Comparison of percentage of households with selected characteristics for August 1981 - summer 198799

Table 1--Aggregate summer 1987 participation totals

Area	Number of households (thousands)	Number of people (thousands)	Value of benefits (thousands)
United States	6,984	18,640	\$838,614
Continental U.S.	6,941	18,526	\$829,578
Alaska and Hawaii	43	114	\$9,036
Outlying areas ^a	10	39	\$2,745
Total	6,994	18,679	\$841,359

^aIncludes participants in Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Source: Food Stamp Program Statistical Summary of Operations,
Summer 1987.

Table 2--Average values of selected national
caseload characteristics

	All households
Gross monthly income	\$426
Net monthly income	\$239
Total deduction ^a	\$205
Countable resources	\$79
Monthly benefit	\$120
Household size	2.7
Certification period	9.4

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 3--Number and percentage of households
with selected characteristics

	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Zero gross income	410	6.0
Zero net income	1,221	17.7
Minimum benefit ^a	614	8.9
Elderly ^b	1,408	20.5
Children ^c	4,208	61.2
School-age children ^d	3,288	47.8
Disabled ^e	577	8.4

^aMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- or two-person households.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 4--Distribution of participating households by gross and net monthly income

Amount of monthly income	Gross income		Net income	
	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	410	6.0	1,221	17.7
\$ 1- 99	155	2.3	1,027	14.9
100-199	548	8.0	1,229	17.9
200-299	843	12.3	1,317	19.1
300-399	1,785	25.9	705	10.2
400-499	1,032	15.0	505	7.3
500-599	682	9.9	356	5.2
600-699	538	7.8	197	2.9
700-799	309	4.5	113	1.6
800-899	202	2.9	100	1.4
900-999	141	2.1	42	0.6
1000 +	235	3.4	68	1.0
Total ^a	6,881	100.0	6,881	100.0
Average income	\$426		\$239	

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 5--Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Number of households ^a (thousands)	Percent of all households
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	229	76	47	30	12	11	2	2	410	6.0
\$ 1- 99	79	28	23	17	4	2	--	3	155	2.3
100-199	296	90	100	38	14	5	3	1	548	8.0
200-299	277	278	160	60	45	14	7	1	843	12.3
300-399	938	297	292	183	42	15	7	9	1,785	25.9
400-499	329	213	235	131	70	42	7	6	1,032	15.0
500-599	57	268	128	123	43	42	9	10	682	9.9
600-699	18	84	213	109	66	18	25	6	538	7.8
700-799	1	34	79	119	50	17	3	6	309	4.5
800-899	1	3	29	53	77	18	11	10	202	2.9
900-999	--	1	12	42	29	32	10	14	141	2.1
1000 +	2	1	3	35	56	51	40	47	235	3.4
Number of households ^a	2,227	1,374	1,321	940	510	269	126	114	6,881	100.0
Percent of all households	32.4	20.0	19.2	13.7	7.4	3.9	1.8	1.7	100.0	
Average gross income	\$290	\$371	\$433	\$524	\$633	\$682	\$797	\$914	\$426	

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No households in this category.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 6--Distribution of participating households by
net monthly income and household size

Net monthly income	Household size								Number of households ^a (thousands)	Percent of all households
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	649	245	164	94	36	23	5	6	1,221	17.7
\$ 1- 99	414	278	206	77	29	9	8	5	1,027	14.9
100-199	446	270	270	147	61	28	6	2	1,229	17.9
200-299	554	238	231	177	66	34	8	8	1,317	19.1
300-399	138	173	184	115	45	28	11	12	705	10.2
400-499	12	126	121	118	87	25	13	4	505	7.3
500-599	11	38	110	98	48	27	15	8	356	5.2
600-699	0	5	34	69	56	21	6	7	197	2.9
700-799	1	0	1	30	41	20	10	11	113	1.6
800-899	1	1	--	15	24	33	13	12	100	1.4
900-999	--	--	--	1	10	14	12	5	42	0.6
1000 +	1	--	--	--	7	8	19	33	68	1.0
Number of households ^a	2,227	1,374	1,321	940	510	269	126	114	6,881	100.0
Percent of all households	32.4	20.0	19.2	13.7	7.4	3.9	1.8	1.7	100.0	
Average net income	\$130	\$184	\$235	\$316	\$415	\$474	\$609	\$706	\$239	

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No households in this category.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 7--Distribution of participating households by income source

Amount of monthly income from specified source	Earned income ^a		Social Security		AFDC or General Assistance		SSI		Other income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	5,492	79.8	5,471	79.5	3,287	47.8	5,450	79.2	5,592	81.3
\$ 1- 99	152	2.2	30	0.4	217	3.2	329	4.8	680	9.9
100-199	153	2.2	169	2.5	677	9.8	311	4.5	235	3.4
200-299	142	2.1	436	6.3	847	12.3	112	1.6	136	2.0
300-399	149	2.2	417	6.1	765	11.1	541	7.9	92	1.3
400-499	141	2.0	202	2.9	493	7.2	80	1.2	50	0.7
500-599	151	2.2	84	1.2	242	3.5	32	0.5	46	0.7
600-699	145	2.1	36	0.5	198	2.9	19	0.3	25	0.4
700-799	97	1.4	13	0.2	76	1.1	4	0.1	13	0.2
800-899	69	1.0	8	0.1	37	0.5	1	0.0	3	0.1
900-999	66	1.0	5	0.1	21	0.3	2	0.0	4	0.1
1000 +	124	1.8	9	0.1	20	0.3	0	0.0	4	0.1
Number of households ^b	6,881	100.0	6,881	100.0	6,881	100.0	6,881	100.0	6,881	100.0
Households with income	1,389	20.2	1,409	20.5	3,594	52.2	1,431	20.8	1,288	18.7
Average amount of income ^c	\$502		\$355		\$335		\$241		\$163	
Average gross income ^c	\$642		\$462		\$432		\$453		\$484	

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

^cFor households with income from specified source.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 8--Number of households, average income, and average benefit by selected income sources

Income source	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households	Average income amount ^a		Average benefit ^a
			Gross	From source	
Earned income:					
Wages and salaries	1,270	18.5	\$663	\$527	\$139
Self-employment	88	1.3	\$408	\$198	\$167
Earned income tax credit	7	0.1	\$655	\$253	\$90
Other earned income	43	0.6	\$508	\$184	\$116
Unearned income:					
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)	2,806	40.8	\$475	\$370	\$156
Household General Assistance	844	12.3	\$301	\$200	\$98
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	1,431	20.8	\$453	\$241	\$56
Social Security	1,409	20.5	\$462	\$335	\$57
Household unemployment income	120	1.7	\$539	\$331	\$143
Veteran's benefits	161	2.3	\$484	\$198	\$58
Worker's compensation	29	0.4	\$623	\$421	\$108
Other government benefits	108	1.6	\$398	\$116	\$132
Household contributions	228	3.3	\$431	\$152	\$139
Household deemed income	2	0.0	\$702	\$300	\$218
Household loans	41	0.6	\$478	\$115	\$114
Other unearned income	317	4.6	\$474	\$107	\$118
Income from unknown source ^b	372	5.4	\$529	\$107	\$135
No income	410	6.0	\$0	\$0	\$144
Total ^c	6,881	100.0	\$426		\$120

^aAverage over households with income from specified source.

^bNot reported as income from specific source, but included as part of gross income. Reported here to maintain consistency.

^cSum of individual income sources do not add to totals because households can receive income from more than one source.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 9--Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income
as a percentage of the poverty line for all households,
households with elderly or disabled, and
households with children

Gross income as a percentage of the poverty line ^a	All households		Households with elderly ^b		Households with elderly or disabled ^c		Households with children ^d	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
25% or less	896	13.0	34	2.4	36	1.8	497	11.8
26 - 50%	1,786	26.0	82	5.8	126	6.4	1,384	32.9
51 - 75%	1,857	27.0	348	24.7	574	28.9	1,210	28.8
76 - 100%	1,911	27.8	785	55.7	1,058	53.3	892	21.2
101 - 125%	385	5.6	139	9.9	166	8.3	208	4.9
126 - 130%	16	0.2	4	0.3	5	0.2	11	0.3
131 - 150%	21	0.3	12	0.8	16	0.8	5	0.1
151 or more	9	0.1	5	0.3	5	0.3	1	0.0
Total ^e	6,881	100.0	1,408	100.0	1,985	100.0	4,208	100.0

^aDefined as the 1987 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see Appendix A).

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 10--Distribution of participating households by net monthly income
as a percentage of the poverty line for all households,
households with elderly or disabled, and
households with children

Net income as a percentage of the poverty line ^a	All households		Households with elderly ^b		Households with elderly or disabled ^c		Households with children ^d	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
25% or less	3,182	46.2	338	24.0	447	22.5	1,896	45.1
26 - 50%	1,953	28.4	483	34.3	686	34.6	1,307	31.1
51 - 75%	1,467	21.3	488	34.6	717	36.1	841	20.0
76 - 100%	263	3.8	93	6.6	124	6.2	163	3.9
101 - 125%	12	0.2	7	0.5	11	0.5	0	0.0
126 - 130%	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
131 - 150%	1	0.0	--	--	0	0.0	1	0.0
151 or more	3	0.0	--	--	1	0.0	--	--
Total ^e	6,881	100.0	1,408	100.0	1,985	100.0	4,208	100.0

^aDefined as the 1987 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendix A).

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No households in this category.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 11--Number of participating households claiming deductions
and value of deductions claimed^a

Type of deduction	Number of households claiming deduction (thousands)	Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
			Over claiming households	Over all households
Earned income	1,389	20.2	\$101	\$20
Dependent care ^b	163	2.4	\$100	\$2
Shelter ^c	4,878	70.9	\$114	\$81
Medical ^d	186	2.7	\$77	\$2
Total ^e	6,881	100.0	\$205	\$205

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bSubject to a limit of \$160 per month with some exceptions (see appendix C).

^cSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix C).

^dAvailable only to households where at least one person is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

^eIncludes standard deduction for all households (see appendix C). Due to households claiming more than one deduction or none at all, the sum of the individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 12--Distribution of participating households by
amount of total deduction

Amount of total deduction ^a	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
\$51 - 100	1,453	21.1
101 - 150	857	12.5
151 - 200	974	14.2
201 - 250	2,299	33.4
251 - 300	491	7.1
300+	807	11.7
Total ^b	6,881	100.0
Average deduction for claiming households	\$205	

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 13--Average total deduction^a for all households by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Average total deduction
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
None	\$137	\$197	\$207	\$194	\$198	\$217	\$193	\$219	\$165
\$ 1- 99	\$148	\$197	\$215	\$224	\$223	\$233	--	\$255	\$180
100-199	\$193	\$186	\$183	\$190	\$213	\$248	\$159	\$171	\$191
200-299	\$221	\$202	\$203	\$189	\$171	\$192	\$219	\$248	\$206
300-399	\$179	\$209	\$194	\$187	\$194	\$215	\$157	\$205	\$188
400-499	\$206	\$195	\$212	\$215	\$212	\$204	\$216	\$182	\$206
500-599	\$238	\$201	\$227	\$207	\$196	\$199	\$145	\$214	\$209
600-699	\$272	\$253	\$206	\$229	\$216	\$191	\$178	\$206	\$219
700-799	\$255	\$266	\$252	\$232	\$226	\$194	\$225	\$225	\$237
800-899	\$144	\$335	\$334	\$273	\$225	\$214	\$165	\$175	\$248
900-999	--	\$165	\$349	\$287	\$282	\$164	\$173	\$167	\$243
1000 +	\$180	\$402	\$557	\$336	\$338	\$310	\$223	\$251	\$296
Average total deduction	\$187	\$206	\$212	\$220	\$227	\$220	\$192	\$219	\$205

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

-- No households in this category.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 14--Number of participating households claiming earned income deduction and value of deduction claimed^a

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly ^b	1,408	79	5.6	\$57	\$3
Children ^c	4,208	1,156	27.5	\$112	\$31
Disabled ^d	577	46	8.0	\$68	\$5
Earned income ^e	1,389	1,389	100.0	\$101	\$100
Public Assistance ^f	3,594	397	11.0	\$74	\$8
Total ^g	6,881	1,389	20.1	\$101	\$20

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member is age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^gThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 15--Distribution of participating households
by amount of earned income deduction^a

Amount of earned income deduction ^a	Number of households	Percent of all households
None	5,494	79.9
\$ 1- 50	385	5.6
51-100	355	5.2
101-150	352	5.1
151-200	174	2.5
201-250	87	1.3
251-300	27	0.4
300+	6	0.1
Total ^b	6,881	100.0
Average deduction for claiming households	\$101	

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 16--Number of participating households claiming dependent care^a
deduction and value of deduction claimed^b

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly ^c	1,408	4	0.3	\$69	\$0
Children ^d	4,208	160	3.8	\$101	\$4
Disabled ^e	577	2	0.4	\$108	\$0
Earned income ^f	1,389	144	10.3	\$101	\$10
Public assistance ^g	3,594	72	2.0	\$97	\$2
Total ^h	6,881	163	2.4	\$100	\$2

^aSubject to a limit of \$160 per month with some exceptions (see appendix C).

^bDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^fEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^gPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^hThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 17--Distribution of participating households by
amount of dependent care deduction^a

Amount of dependent care deduction ^b	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	6,718	97.6
\$ 1 - 50	35	0.5
51 - 100	41	0.6
101 - 150	50	0.7
151 - 160	36	0.5
Total ^c	6,881	100.0
Average deduction for claiming households	\$100	

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bSubject to a limit of \$160 per month.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 18--Number of participating households claiming excess shelter^a
deduction and value of deduction claimed^b

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households ^h	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly ^c	1,408	948	67.3	\$116	\$78
Children ^d	4,208	2,993	71.1	\$114	\$81
Disabled ^e	577	353	61.1	\$128	\$79
Earned income ^f	1,389	893	64.3	\$111	\$71
Public assistance ^g	3,594	2,693	74.9	\$113	\$85
Total ^h	6,881	4,878	70.9	\$114	\$81

^aSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix C).

^bDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^fEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^gPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^hThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 19--Distribution of participating households by
amount of excess shelter deduction^a

Amount of excess shelter deduction ^b	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	2,003	29.1
\$1 - 50	896	13.0
51 - 100	969	14.1
101 - 150	2,615	38.0
151 - 200	165	2.4
201 - 250	101	1.5
251 - 300	63	0.9
300+	68	1.0
Total ^c	6,881	100.0
Average deduction for claiming households	\$114	

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix C).

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 20--Distribution of participating households
by the value of shelter deduction^a

Value of shelter deduction ^b	All households		Households with elderly ^c		Households with children ^d		Households with disabled ^e		Households with earned income ^f		Households with public assistance ^g	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	2,003	29.1	460	32.7	1,214	28.9	225	38.9	495	35.7	901	25.1
Less than cap	2,761	40.1	672	47.8	1,531	36.4	229	39.6	492	35.5	1,459	40.6
Equal to cap	1,719	25.0	3	0.2	1,388	33.0	0	0.0	375	27.0	1,155	32.1
Greater than cap	397	5.8	273	19.4	74	1.8	124	21.5	26	1.9	78	2.2
Total ^h	6,881	100.0	1,408	100.0	4,208	100.0	577	100.0	1,389	100.0	3,594	100.0

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix C).

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^fEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^gPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^hDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 21--Number of participating households claiming medical deduction and value of deduction claimed^a

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of All households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly ^b	1,408	173	12.3	\$79	\$10
Children ^c	4,208	14	0.3	\$80	\$0
Disabled ^d	577	13	2.2	\$46	\$1
Earned income ^e	1,389	9	0.6	\$100	\$1
Public assistance ^f	3,594	10	0.3	\$97	\$0
Total ^g	6,881	186	2.7	\$77	\$2

^aAvailable only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more. Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^gThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 22--Distribution of participating households by
amount of medical deduction^a

Amount of medical deduction ^a	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	6,695	97.3
\$1 - 50	100	1.5
51 - 100	42	0.6
101 - 150	22	0.3
151 - 200	11	0.2
201 - 250	4	0.1
251 - 300	0	0.0
300+	7	0.1
Total ^b	6,881	100.0
Average deduction for claiming households	\$77	

^aAvailable only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more. Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 23--Distribution of participating households by amount of
monthly food stamp benefit

Amount of monthly benefit ^a	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
\$10 or less	627	9.1
11 - 25	395	5.7
26 - 50	548	8.0
51 - 75	732	10.6
76 - 100	1,141	16.6
101 - 150	1,374	20.0
151 - 200	870	12.6
201 - 300	941	13.7
301 or more	254	3.7
Total ^b	6,881	100.0
Average benefit	\$120	

^aThe maximum monthly benefit varies by area (see appendix D).

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 24--Average monthly food stamp benefit by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Average total deduction
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
None	\$82	\$150	\$214	\$271	\$327	\$387	\$428	\$592	\$144
\$ 1- 99	\$81	\$149	\$214	\$273	\$322	\$387	--	\$634	\$152
100-199	\$77	\$144	\$206	\$264	\$321	\$387	\$425	\$475	\$137
200-299	\$68	\$134	\$194	\$252	\$295	\$364	\$410	\$489	\$147
300-399	\$29	\$107	\$167	\$220	\$271	\$349	\$374	\$490	\$97
400-499	\$23	\$71	\$144	\$203	\$251	\$310	\$357	\$439	\$115
500-599	\$17	\$49	\$117	\$172	\$215	\$284	\$305	\$445	\$116
600-699	\$20	\$38	\$85	\$146	\$196	\$254	\$290	\$413	\$120
700-700	\$10	\$27	\$65	\$118	\$166	\$221	\$272	\$383	\$115
800-899	\$10	\$19	\$61	\$100	\$137	\$206	\$221	\$308	\$133
900-999	--	\$11	\$40	\$76	\$124	\$150	\$192	\$270	\$128
1000+	\$10	\$10	\$76	\$50	\$72	\$131	\$131	\$225	\$122
Average benefit per household	\$46	\$95	\$144	\$177	\$198	\$247	\$246	\$328	\$120

-- No households in this category.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 25--Distribution of participating households by total countable resources
for all households and households with elderly or disabled

Value of countable resources ^a	All households		Households with elderly ^b		Households with elderly or disabled ^c	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)	
None	5,218	75.8	881	62.5	1,289	64.9
\$ 1 - 500	1,273	18.5	334	23.7	471	23.7
501 - 1,000	247	3.6	113	8.0	133	6.7
1,001 - 1,500	92	1.3	52	3.7	61	3.1
1,501 - 1,700	19	0.3	9	0.6	9	0.4
1,751 - 2,000	15	0.2	8	0.6	9	0.4
2,001 - 3,000	16	0.2	11	0.8	14	0.7
Unknown	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total ^d	6,881	100.0	1,408	100.0	1,985	100.0
Average value	\$79		\$182		\$152	

^aDefined as cash on hand, assets which can be easily converted to cash, such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments. They also include some nonliquid assets, although the family home, one or more family vehicles if under \$4,500 in value, and business tools or property are not counted.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 26--Distribution of participating households
by type of most recent action

Most recent action	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Initial certification ^a	1,489	21.6
Recertification	5,216	75.8
Unknown	176	2.6
Total ^b	6,881	100.0

^aIncludes both households certified for the first time and previously certified households who have not received benefits for at least 30 days.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 27--Comparison of households with and without expedited service by presence of gross and net monthly income

	Households with expedited service ^a		Households without expedited service		Unknown	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent ^b
Gross income = 0	86	40.7	324	4.9	0	2.5
Gross income > 0	126	59.3	6,327	95.1	18	97.5
Net income = 0	138	65.1	1,081	16.2	3	14.0
Net income > 0	74	34.9	5,570	83.8	15	86.0
Total ^c	212	3.1	6,651	96.7	18	0.3

^aHouseholds which initially received expedited service for the certification period in effect in July or August 1987.

^bPercents are calculated from unrounded numbers and may not match calculations based on the rounded number presented in the table.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 28--Distribution of participating households by
length of certification period

Months in certification period	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
1	40	0.6
2	55	0.8
3	271	3.9
4	230	3.3
5	123	1.8
6	1,600	23.2
7	347	5.0
8	139	2.0
9	64	0.9
10	112	1.6
11	177	2.6
12	3,240	47.1
13+	458	6.7
Unknown	26	0.4
Total ^a	6,881	100.0
Average length in months	9.4	

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 29--Distribution of participating households
by household size

Household size	All households		Households with elderly ^a		Households with earnings ^b		Households with children ^c	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
1	2,227	32.4	1,015	72.1	159	11.4	25	0.6
2	1,374	20.0	241	17.1	209	15.0	965	22.9
3	1,321	19.2	56	4.0	304	21.9	1,272	30.2
4	940	13.7	47	3.3	317	22.8	931	22.1
5	510	7.4	24	1.7	206	14.8	505	12.0
6	269	3.9	13	0.9	104	7.5	269	6.4
7	126	1.8	5	0.4	42	3.0	126	3.0
8+	114	1.7	7	0.5	49	3.5	114	2.7
Total ^d	6,881	100.0	1,408	100.0	1,389	100.0	4,208	100.0
Average size	2.7		1.5		3.7		3.7	

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 30--Sex- and age-related characteristics
of participating households

	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households ¹
Households with elderly ^a	1,408	20.5
Single person elderly households ^b	1,015	14.7
Headed by female	811	11.8
Headed by male	203	3.0
Unknown	0	0.0
Other elderly households ^c	393	5.7
Headed by female	218	3.2
Headed by male	176	2.6
Unknown	0	0.0
Households with children ^d	4,208	61.2
Headed by female	3,467	50.4
Headed by male	652	9.5
Unknown	88	1.3
Households with disabled ^e	577	8.4
Headed by female	396	5.8
Headed by male	176	2.6
Unknown	6	0.1

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes elderly single persons living alone or as a separate food stamp unit in a larger household.

^cIncludes elderly couples and other multiperson households with elderly members.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member is age 60 or more.

¹Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 31--Distribution of participating households by household size,
number of elderly, number of children, and number of school-age children

Gross monthly income	Household size								Average total deduction
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
Number of elderly ^a									
0	1,212	1,133	1,265	893	486	255	120	108	5,473
1	1,015	108	48	41	22	12	5	6	1,256
2	--	133	8	6	2	1	0	1	151
Number of children ^b									
0	2,201	409	49	9	5	--	--	--	2,673
1	25	919	323	46	17	2	--	--	1,331
2	--	45	930	425	33	15	1	--	1,449
3	--	--	19	458	261	36	12	4	790
4	--	--	--	3	194	147	17	10	371
5+	--	--	--	--	1	70	95	101	266
Number of school-age children ^c									
0	2,214	827	370	141	30	8	--	3	3,593
1	13	535	506	242	98	26	8	2	1,431
2	--	11	441	356	145	72	18	10	1,054
3	--	--	4	202	156	66	33	10	470
4	--	--	--	--	81	79	35	19	215
5+	--	--	--	--	--	17	31	70	118
Total ^d	2,227	1,374	1,321	940	510	269	126	114	6,881

^aPersons age 60 or more.

^bPersons age 17 or less.

^cPersons age 5 to 17.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No households in this category.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 32--Distribution of participants by age and sex

Age	Female		Male		Unknown		All participants	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
4 or less	1,580	8.4	1,554	8.3	5	0.0	3,139	16.7
5 - 17	3,191	17.0	3,260	17.4	9	0.1	6,460	34.5
18 - 35	3,469	18.5	1,348	7.2	2	0.0	4,820	25.7
36 - 59	1,747	9.3	974	5.2	2	0.0	2,723	14.5
60 or more	1,126	6.0	433	2.3	0	0.0	1,560	8.3
Unknown	16	0.1	10	0.1	7	0.0	46	0.2
Total ^a	11,130	59.4	7,579	40.4	40	0.2	18,748	100.0

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 33--Age-related characteristics of participants

	Number of participants (thousands)	Percent of participants
A. Children ^a	9,599	51.2
1. Preschool children	3,139	16.7
2. School-age children	6,460	34.5
B. Adults ^b	7,543	40.2
1. Parents	5,724	30.5
a. Single parents	2,666	14.2
Living with elderly	73	0.4
Disabled	76	0.4
Living with disabled	37	0.2
Other	2,480	13.2
b. Multiple parents	3,058	16.3
Living with elderly	82	0.4
Disabled	132	0.7
Living with disabled	184	1.0
Other	2,661	14.2
2. Nonparents	1,819	9.7
a. Single adults	1,266	6.8
Living with elderly	82	0.4
Disabled	258	1.4
Living with disabled	--	--
Other	926	4.9
b. Multiple adults	553	2.9
Living with elderly	49	0.3
Disabled	82	0.4
Living with disabled	59	0.3
Other	363	1.9
C. Elderly ^c	1,560	8.3
D. Unknown age	46	0.2
Total ^d	18,748	100.0

^aPersons age 17 or less.

^bPersons age 18 to 59.

^cPersons age 60 or more.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No households in this category.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 34--Distribution of participating households by
race or ethnic origin of household head

Race/ethnic origin of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
White	3,224	46.9
Black	2,479	36.0
Hispanic	819	11.9
Asian	139	2.0
American Indian	69	1.0
Unknown	150	2.2
Total ^a	6,881	100.0

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 35--Distribution of participating households by
selected characteristics of household members

Households with at least one:	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Alien	91	1.3
Migrant	2	0.0
Military	3	0.0
Striker	2	0.0
Student ^a	361	5.2

^aHousehold member age 18 years or older enrolled at least half-time in recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 36--Distribution of participating households by
employment status of household head

Employment status of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Employed full-time ^a	585	8.5
Employed part-time ^b	257	3.7
Self-employed	22	0.3
Farm employed	9	0.1
Not employed	5,821	84.6
Unknown	187	2.7
Total ^c	6,881	100.0

^aEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

^bEmployed less than 30 hours per week.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 37--Distribution of participating households by work registration status of household head

Work registration status of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of households
Required to register for work	828	12.0
Exempt from work registration:	5,806	84.4
Less than 18	6	0.1
Disabled or elderly	2,120	30.8
WIN participant	1,352	19.7
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult ^a	1,666	24.2
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	72	1.0
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	46	0.7
Employed full-time ^b	513	7.4
Student ^c	31	0.5
Unknown	247	3.6
Total ^d	6,881	100.0

^aIncludes both caretakers of children under 6 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment.

^bEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

^cEnrolled at least half-time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 38--Distribution of participants by work registration status

Work registration status	Number of participants (thousands)	Percent of participants
Required to register for work	1,457	7.8
Exempt from work registration:	16,913	90.2
Less than 18	9,130	48.7
Disabled or elderly	2,595	13.8
WIN participant	1,735	9.3
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult ^a	2,160	11.5
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	97	0.5
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	47	0.3
Employed full time ^b	740	3.9
Student ^c	409	2.2
Unknown	378	2.0
Total ^d	18,748	100.0

^aIncludes both caretakers of children under 6 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment.

^bEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

^cEnrolled at least half-time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 39--Distribution of households and benefits
for households with and without earned income

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with earned income ^a	1,389	20.2	\$194,773	23.6
Households with no earned income	5,492	79.8	\$630,663	76.4
Total ^b	6,881	100.0	\$825,436	100.0

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 40--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without earned income

	Households with earned income ^a	Households with no earned income
Gross monthly income	\$642	\$371
Net monthly income	\$370	\$206
Total deduction ^b	\$282	\$185
Countable resources	\$109	\$71
Monthly benefit	\$140	\$115
Household size	3.7	2.5
Certification period (months)	8.7	9.6

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 41--Number and percentage of households with and without earned income for selected characteristics

	Households with earned income ^a		Households with no earned income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^f	Number (thousands)	Percent ^f
Zero gross income	0	0.0	410	7.5
Zero net income	169	12.2	1,052	19.2
Minimum benefit ^b	52	3.8	562	10.2
Elderly ^c	80	5.8	1,328	24.2
Children ^d	1,158	83.4	3,050	55.5
School-age children ^e	961	69.2	2,327	42.4

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one and two-person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^fPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 42--Comparison of distribution of participating households
on selected characteristics for households with and without
earned income

	Households with earned income ^a		Households with no earned income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Household size				
1 - 2	367	26.5	3,233	58.9
3 - 4	621	44.7	1,641	29.9
5+	401	28.9	618	11.2
Gross income				
None	0	0	410	7.5
\$ 1 - 99	57	4.1	98	1.8
100 - 199	61	4.4	486	8.9
200 - 299	74	5.4	769	14.0
300 - 399	127	9.1	1,658	30.2
400 - 499	149	10.7	883	16.1
500+	920	66.3	1,188	21.6
Net income				
None	169	12.2	1,052	19.2
\$ 1 - 99	121	8.7	906	16.5
100 - 199	150	10.8	1,079	19.6
200 - 299	183	13.2	1,134	20.7
300 - 399	172	12.4	533	9.7
400 - 499	176	12.7	329	6.0
500+	416	30.0	459	8.4
Benefits				
\$10 or less	60	4.3	567	10.3
11 - 50	129	9.3	813	14.8
51 - 100	342	24.6	1,530	27.9
101 - 200	557	40.1	1,687	30.7
201 - 300	220	15.9	720	13.1
301+	79	5.7	175	3.2
Total ^b	1,389	100.0	5,492	100.0

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 43--Distribution of households and benefits for
households with and without elderly

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with elderly ^a	1,408	20.5	\$67,671	8.2
Households without elderly	5,473	79.5	\$757,764	91.8
Total ^b	6,881	100.0	\$825,436	100.0

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 44--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without elderly

	Households with elderly ^a	Households with no elderly
Gross monthly income	\$420	\$427
Net monthly income	\$238	\$240
Total deduction ^b	\$190	\$209
Countable resources ^c	\$182	\$52
Monthly benefit	\$48	\$138
Household size	1.5	3.0
Certification period (months)	11.3	8.9

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those deductions to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^cAt the time these data were collected, the resource limit for most households was \$2,000. Households with at least one member age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 45--Number and percentage of households with and without elderly for selected characteristics

	Households with elderly ^a		Households with no elderly	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^a	Number (thousands)	Percent ^a
Zero gross income	18	1.3	393	7.2
Zero net income	105	7.4	1,116	20.4
Minimum benefit ^b	414	29.4	200	3.7
Children ^c	158	11.2	4,050	74.0
School-age children ^d	139	9.9	3,149	57.5

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^ePercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 46--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without elderly

	Households with elderly ^a		Households with no elderly	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Household size				
1 - 2	1,256	89.2	2,345	42.8
3 - 4	103	7.3	2,159	39.4
5+	49	3.5	969	17.7
Gross income				
None	18	1.3	393	7.2
\$ 1 - 99	9	0.6	146	2.7
100 - 199	32	2.2	516	9.4
200 - 299	68	4.8	775	14.2
300 - 399	715	50.8	1,070	19.5
400 - 499	265	18.8	767	14.0
500+	301	21.4	1,807	33.0
Net income				
None	105	7.4	1,116	20.4
\$ 1 - 99	157	11.2	869	15.9
100 - 199	343	24.4	886	16.2
200 - 299	455	32.3	863	15.8
300 - 399	166	11.8	539	9.8
400 - 499	89	6.3	416	7.6
500+	92	6.6	783	14.3
Benefits				
\$10 or less	422	30.0	205	3.7
11 - 50	521	37.0	421	7.7
51 - 100	312	22.2	1,560	28.5
101 - 200	112	8.0	2,132	38.0
201 - 300	31	2.2	909	16.6
301+	8	0.6	246	4.5
Total ^b	1,408	100.0	5,473	100.0

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 47--Distribution of households and benefits
for households with and without disabled

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with disabled ^a	577	8.4	\$46,436	5.6
Households with no disabled	6,303	91.6	\$778,999	94.4
Total ^b	6,881	100.0	\$825,436	100.0

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 48--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without disabled

	Households with disabled ^a	Households with no disabled
Gross monthly income	\$517	\$418
Net monthly income	\$335	\$231
Total deductions ^b	\$185	\$207
Countable resources	\$79	\$78
Monthly benefit	\$80	\$124
Household size	2.6	2.7
Certification period (months)	10.1	9.4

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 49--Number and percentage of households with and without disabled for selected characteristics

Households with:	Households with disabled ^a		Households with no disabled	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^e	Number (thousands)	Percent ^e
Zero gross income	0	0.0	410	6.5
Zero net income	20	3.5	1,201	19.1
Minimum benefit ^b	112	19.4	502	8.0
Children ^c	250	43.3	3,958	62.8
School-age children ^d	207	35.8	3,081	48.9

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^ePercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 50--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without disabled

Households with:	Households with disabled ^a		Households with no disabled	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Household size				
1 - 2	365	63.2	3,235	51.3
3 - 4	112	19.5	2,149	34.1
5+	100	17.3	919	14.6
Gross income				
None	0	0	410	6.5
\$ 1 - 99	1	0.2	154	2.4
100 - 199	0	0.0	547	8.7
200 - 299	9	1.6	834	13.2
300 - 399	215	37.2	1,570	24.9
400 - 499	120	20.7	912	14.5
500+	232	40.3	1,876	29.8
Net income				
None	20	3.5	1,201	19.1
\$ 1 - 99	54	9.4	973	15.4
100 - 199	101	17.5	1,128	17.9
200 - 299	149	25.8	1,168	18.5
300 - 399	64	11.1	641	10.2
400 - 499	63	10.8	443	7.0
500+	126	21.9	749	11.9
Benefits				
\$10 or less	113	19.6	514	8.1
11 - 50	153	26.6	789	12.5
51 - 100	146	25.4	1,726	27.4
101 - 200	117	20.3	2,127	33.7
201 - 300	32	5.6	909	14.4
301+	15	2.6	239	3.8
Total ^b	577	100.0	6,303	100.0

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 51--Distribution of households and benefits
for households with children, school-age
children, and no children

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with children ^a	4,208	61.2	\$682,373	82.7
Households with school-age children ^b	3,288	47.8	\$560,406	67.9
Households with no children	2,673	38.8	\$143,062	17.3
Total ^c	6,881	100.0	\$825,436	100.0

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 52--Average value of selected characteristics for
households with children, school-age children,
and no children

	Households with children ^a	Households with school-age children ^b	Households with no children
Gross monthly income	\$498	\$524	\$313
Net monthly income	\$295	\$318	\$151
Total deduction ^c	\$215	\$217	\$189
Countable resources	\$53	\$59	\$119
Monthly benefit	\$162	\$170	\$54
Household size	3.7	3.9	1.2
Certification period	8.8	8.9	10.3

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^cIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 53--Number and percentage of households with children, school-age children, and no children for selected characteristics

	Households with children ^a		Households with school-age children ^b		Households with no children	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^c	Number (thousands)	Percent ^c	Number (thousands)	Percent ^c
Zero gross income	141	3.3	95	2.9	270	10.1
Zero net income	482	11.4	333	10.1	739	27.7
Minimum benefit ^b	25	0.6	19	0.6	589	22.0
Elderly ^c	158	3.8	139	4.2	1,250	46.8
School-age children ^d	3,288	78.1	3,288	100.0	0	0.0

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^ePercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 54--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with children, school-age children, and no children

	Households with children ^a		Households with school-age children ^b		Households with no children	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Households size						
1 - 2	990	23.5	559	17.0	2,610	97.7
3 - 4	2,204	52.4	1,751	53.2	58	2.2
5+	1,014	24.1	978	29.7	5	0.2
Gross income						
None	141	3.3	95	2.9	270	10.1
\$ 1 - 99	64	1.5	42	1.3	91	3.4
100 - 199	230	5.5	160	4.9	318	11.9
200 - 299	542	12.9	360	10.9	301	11.3
300 - 399	771	18.3	590	18.0	1,014	37.9
400 - 499	643	15.3	521	15.8	389	14.6
500+	1,818	43.2	1,519	46.2	290	10.9
Net income						
None	482	11.4	333	10.1	739	27.7
\$ 1 - 99	577	13.7	392	11.9	450	16.8
100 - 199	737	17.5	565	17.2	492	18.4
200 - 299	690	16.4	546	16.6	627	23.5
300 - 399	488	11.6	390	11.9	217	8.1
400 - 499	422	10.0	329	10.0	84	3.1
500+	813	19.3	732	22.3	63	2.3
Benefits						
\$10 or less	37	0.9	25	0.8	590	22.1
11 - 50	226	5.4	150	4.6	716	26.8
51 - 100	705	16.7	508	15.5	1,168	43.7
101 - 200	2,062	49.0	1,570	47.8	183	6.8
201 - 300	924	22.0	787	23.9	16	0.6
301+	254	6.0	247	7.5	0	0.0
Total ^c	4,208	100.0	3,288	100.0	2,673	100.0

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 55--Distribution of households and benefits
for households with and without AFDC income

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with AFDC income	2,806	40.8	\$438,510	53.1
Households with no AFDC income	4,075	59.2	\$386,926	46.9
Total ^a	6,881	100.0	\$825,436	100.0

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 56--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without AFDC income

	Households with AFDC income	Households with no AFDC income
Gross monthly income	\$475	\$392
Net monthly income	\$287	\$207
Total deduction ^a	\$192	\$214
Countable resources	\$28	\$113
Monthly benefit	\$156	\$95
Household size	3.5	2.2
Certification period (months)	9.2	9.6

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 57--Number and percentage of households with and without
AFDC income for selected characteristics

Households with:	Households with AFDC income		Households with no AFDC income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^a	Number (thousands)	Percent ^a
Zero gross income	0	0.0	410	10.1
Zero net income	189	6.7	1,033	25.3
Minimum benefit ^a	18	0.6	596	14.6
Elderly ^b	87	3.1	1,321	32.4
Children ^c	2,773	98.8	1,435	35.2
School-age children ^d	2,103	75.0	1,185	29.1

^aMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^aPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 58--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without AFDC income

Households with:	Households with AFDC income		Households with no AFDC income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Household size				
1 - 2	761	27.1	2,840	69.7
3 - 4	1,456	51.9	805	19.8
5+	588	21.0	430	10.6
Gross income				
None	0	0	410	10.1
\$ 1 - 99	19	0.7	136	3.3
100 - 199	154	5.5	393	9.6
200 - 299	449	16.0	394	9.7
300 - 399	624	22.2	1,161	28.5
400 - 499	504	17.9	528	13.0
500+	1,056	37.6	1,052	25.8
Net income				
None	189	6.7	1,033	25.3
\$ 1 - 99	436	15.5	591	14.5
100 - 199	584	20.8	645	15.8
200 - 299	515	18.4	802	19.7
300 - 399	330	11.8	375	9.2
400 - 499	276	9.8	230	5.6
500+	476	17.0	400	9.8
Benefits				
\$10 or less	27	1.0	600	14.7
11 - 50	147	5.2	796	19.5
51 - 100	481	17.1	1,391	34.1
101 - 200	1,461	52.1	783	19.2
201 - 300	570	20.3	371	9.1
301+	119	4.3	135	3.3
Total ^a	2,806	100.0	4,075	100.0

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 59--Comparison of average value of selected characteristics for August 1980 - summer 1987

	August 1980 ^a	August 1981	August 1982	August 1983	August 1984	Summer 1985	Summer 1986	Summer 1987
Gross monthly income	\$326	\$349	\$356	\$379	\$390	\$398	\$417	\$426
Net monthly income	\$194	\$196	\$205	\$224	\$229	\$226	\$232	\$239
Total deduction ^b	\$148	\$169	\$159	\$170	\$177	\$191	\$203	\$205
Countable resources	\$ 66	\$ 62	\$ 58	\$ 54	\$ 58	\$ 63	\$ 71	\$ 79
∞ Monthly benefit	\$ 89	\$103	\$105	\$116	\$114	\$116	\$120	\$120
Household size	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7

^aExcludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. Deductions are those to which households are entitled. Some deductions may not have been used before a household reached zero net income status.

Source: August 1980 - summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 60--Comparison of percentage of households with
selected characteristics for August 1980 - summer 1987

Households with:	Percent of all households							
	August 1980 ^a	August 1981	August 1982	August 1983	August 1984	August 1985	Summer 1986	Summer 1987
Zero gross income	8.1	7.3	7.8	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.0	6.0
Zero net income	16.6	18.7	18.9	16.4	17.5	19.8	18.6	17.7
Minimum benefit	6.9	5.6	7.5	7.5	9.6	8.5	8.5	8.9
Elderly ^b	22.6	20.9	19.6	20.2	22.1	21.4	20.2	20.5
Children ^c	59.9	56.4	58.2	63.8	60.9	59.2	61.2	61.2
School-age children ^d	44.4	41.5	44.2	49.2	47.3	46.3	47.4	47.8

^aExcludes Alaska and Hawaii

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Source: August 1980 - summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Appendix A--Poverty income guidelines for 1987^a

Household size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,860	\$ 6,310
2	7,400	9,240	8,500
3	9,300	11,620	10,690
4	11,200	14,000	12,880
5	13,100	16,380	15,070
6	15,000	18,760	17,260
7	16,900	21,140	19,450
8 ^b	18,800	23,520	21,640

^aAnnual income for nonfarm families.

^bFor households with more than eight members, add \$1,900 in the continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands; \$2,380 in Alaska; and \$2,190 in Hawaii for each additional person.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services.

Appendix B--Maximum allowable net monthly food stamp income
eligibility standards in summer 1987^a

Household size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$ 459	\$ 572	\$ 526
2	617	770	709
3	775	969	891
4	934	1,167	1,074
5	1,092	1,365	1,256
6	1,250	1,564	1,439
7	1,409	1,762	1,621
8b	1,567	1,960	1,804

^aThe food stamp net income standards are equal to the HHS poverty income guidelines (appendix A) divided by 12, rounded up to the nearest dollar.

^bFor households with more than eight members, add \$158 in the continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands; \$198 in Alaska; and \$183 in Hawaii for each additional person.

Source: Program records, Food and Nutrition Service.

Appendix C--Value of standard and maximum dependent care and
excess shelter deductions in continental
United States and outlying areas in summer 1987

Area	Standard	Dependent care	Excess shelter ^a
Continental United States	\$ 99	\$160	\$149
Alaska	169	160	260
Hawaii	140	160	213
Guam	198	160	182
Virgin Islands	87	160	111

^aLimit on excess shelter deduction for households with no member age 60 or more or no disabled member.

Source: Program records, Food and Nutrition Service.

Appendix D--Value of maximum coupon allotment in
continental United States and outlying areas in summer 1987

Household Size	Continental United States ^a	Alaska ^b				Hawaii	Guam	Virgin Islands
		Rural I	Rural II	Nenana	Urban			
1	\$ 81	\$140	\$170	\$158	\$111	\$128	\$120	\$104
2	149	256	312	290	204	234	220	192
3	214	367	447	415	293	336	315	275
4	271	467	568	527	372	426	400	349
5	322	554	675	626	442	506	475	415
6	387	665	810	752	530	608	571	498
7	428	735	895	831	586	672	631	550
8 ^c	489	840	1023	949	670	768	721	629

^aExcludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^bDue to the unusual nature of Alaskan terrain and climate, areas outside major urban centers are less accessible to food distributors. Therefore, the value of the maximum coupon allotment accounts for this added expense by splitting the Thrifty Food Plan into four separate components: Rural I, Rural II, Nenana, and Urban.

^cFor households with more than eight members, add \$61 in the continental United States, \$96 in Hawaii, \$90 in Guam, and \$79 in the Virgin Islands for each additional person. In Alaska, add the following amounts for each area:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rural I	\$105
Rural II	128
Nenana	118
Urban	84

Source: Program records, Food and Nutrition Service.

Appendix E--Source and reliability of estimates

Background

The summary tables are derived from a sample of households selected for review as part of the quality control system. This system is an ongoing review of food stamp household circumstances to determine (1) if households are eligible to participate or are receiving the correct coupon allotment, and (2) if household participation is correctly denied or terminated. The system is based on a national probability sample of approximately 70,000 participating food stamp households and a somewhat smaller number of denials and terminations every 12 months. The national sample of participating households collected in the Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS) is stratified by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Annual required State samples range from a minimum of 300 to a maximum of 2,400 reviews depending on the size of the State's caseload. State agencies select an independent sample each month that is generally proportional to the size of the monthly participating caseload.¹ The survey reported here relies primarily on the summer 1987 food stamp IQCS sample of participating households. To ensure an adequate sampling size, both July and August samples comprised the data which were collected for the summer of 1987. The 1986 and 1987 sample sizes were approximately the same.

Target Universe

The target universe of this study included all participating households (active cases) subject to quality control review in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The summer 1987 participating caseload in Guam and the Virgin Islands was also sampled, but these results are not included in the tabulations.

While almost all participating food stamp households are included in the target universe, certain types not amenable to QC review are not. Specifically, the active universe includes all households receiving food stamps during a review period except those in which the participants died or moved outside the State, received benefits by a disaster certification authorized by FNS, were under investigation for Food Stamp Program fraud (including

¹Several States have integrated the Food Stamp, AFDC, and Medicaid QC sample selection and review process. In these States, monthly sample size is not necessarily proportional to monthly caseload size.

notice of adverse action when the review date falls within the time period covered by continued participation pending a hearing, or received restored benefits in accordance with the State manual but who were otherwise ineligible. The sampling unit within the active universe each month is the food stamp household as specified in FNS regulations.

Weighting

The tabulations in this report are based on a total of 10,474 valid observations. The sample findings have been weighted by the number of participating households as reported to FNS. The case record weights of several States were adjusted to reflect the disproportionately stratified QC sample designs in those States.

Income Decision Rule

Several household-level income and deduction variables are both reported and can be calculated by summing across person-level variables. Gross income is the key variable, since the earned income and excess shelter deductions and net income depend on gross income, and benefit levels depend on net income. The data on which this report is based were edited to achieve internal consistency. The mean values for selected variables broken out by their calculated or reported values are presented in table E-1.

Comparison to Participation Data

The following data present a comparison of the preliminary estimates to aggregate program participation data (excluding Guam and the Virgin Islands):

	<u>Program data</u>	<u>Summer 1987 IQCS sample</u>
Number of households	6,977,203	6,880,668
Number of participants	18,612,231	18,747,759
Value of benefits	\$840,961,250	\$825,435,734
Average household size	2.67	2.72
Average bonus per person	\$45.18	\$44.03

Table E-1--Comparison of mean calculated and reported values for selected variables of participating households

	All households	Households with			
		Earnings	Elderly	Children	Disabled
Averages					
Gross income					
Calculated	\$426	\$642	\$420	\$498	\$517
Reported	424	636	419	497	513
Net income					
Calculated	239	370	238	295	335
Reported	231	357	230	287	319
Total deduction					
Calculated	205	282	190	215	185
Reported	204	276	191	214	186
Benefit					
Calculated	120	140	48	162	80
Reported	120	141	50	162	83
Percentages					
Percent with zero gross					
Calculated	6.0	0.0	1.3	3.3	0.0
Reported	5.8	0.1	1.3	3.1	0.1
Percent with zero net					
Calculated	17.7	12.2	7.4	11.4	3.5
Reported	18.5	12.8	8.6	11.9	4.3
Percent with minimum benefit					
Calculated	8.9	3.8	29.4	0.6	19.4
Reported	7.9	2.7	26.3	0.6	17.2

Source: Summer 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Completion Rates

Failure to complete reviews for all cases selected subject to review can bias the sample results if the characteristics of unreviewed households are significantly different from those of reviewed households. While there are no direct measures of such differences, the ratio of valid observations to sample cases selected for review provides an indication of the magnitude of any potential bias. The expected number of cases subject to review in the sample is based on one-sixth of all cases reported as subject to review during October 1986 - September 1987. However, since summer caseloads are smaller than caseloads during other times of the year, this approach probably results in a slight overestimation of the total expected number and thus a slight underestimation of the completion rate. The number of cases selected subject to review, the number of valid observations, and the estimated completion rates are shown below:

	50 States and D.C.
Number of cases selected subject to review	11,171
Number of cases completed	10,474
Estimated completion rate	94.0%

Even though possibly an underestimate, this completion rate compares very favorably with other surveys of this nature.

Appendix F--Sampling Error of Estimates

The estimates of the characteristics of food stamp households contained in this report are based on a sample of households and are therefore subject to statistical sampling error. This appendix presents estimates of the statistical sampling errors associated with certain of the key variables included in the tables in this report. In addition, it outlines methods for estimating the standard errors of other variables for which standard errors have not been directly calculated.

Standard Errors and Confidence Intervals

One important indicator of the magnitude of the possible sampling error associated with a given estimate is its standard error. Standard errors measure the variation in estimated values which would be observed if multiple replications of the sample were drawn. The magnitude of the standard errors depend on (1) the degree of variation in the variable within the overall population from which the sample has been drawn; (2) the design of the sample, including such issues as stratification and sampling probabilities; and (3) the size of the sample on which the estimate is based.

The standard error of estimates of proportions, s_p , based on simple random samples is given by the formula:

$$(1) \quad s_p = \sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)}$$

where p is the sample estimate of the proportion and n is the sample size.

Standard errors of estimated numbers of households based on simple random samples are:

$$(2) \quad s_N = \sqrt{N p(1-p)/(n-1)}$$

where N is the number of households in the population.

However, the formulas for the standard errors of simple random samples do not necessarily provide an accurate estimate for more complex stratified samples such as the stratified sample design

used for this study. In this appendix, estimates produced by the formulas above are referred to as "naive standard errors." More accurate standard errors are provided for key estimates by directly calculating their standard errors through a replicate method as discussed below.¹

Standard errors can be used to construct confidence intervals for estimated variables. A confidence interval is a range of values that will contain the true value of an estimated characteristic with a known probability. For instance, a 95-percent confidence interval extends approximately two standard errors above and below the estimated value for a characteristic and 95-percent of all confidence intervals will contain the true value.

The following discussion presents, for a selected set of key estimates, standard errors estimated using the replication method. It then presents a simple method for approximating standard errors of estimated numbers of households and percentages when individual standard errors have not been estimated.

Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Households

The standard errors for selected estimates of FSP households are shown in table F-1. These standard errors can be used to compute the 95-percent confidence interval for the estimated number of households with a particular characteristic. For example, the estimate in table F-1 of the number of elderly households with zero net income has a standard error of 9.60 thousand and therefore the 95-percent confidence interval extends from 86 thousand to 124 thousand, around the point estimate of 105 thousand.² With such a confidence interval, 95-percent of all intervals constructed in this fashion will contain the true value of the variable.

For standard errors not shown in table F-1, the approximate standard error, S_E , of an estimated number can be obtained by the use of the formula:

$$(3) \quad S_E = s_N \times d \times f$$

¹Standard errors have been estimated using the replicate sample method described in Leslie Kish, Survey Sampling, 1965, pp. 127-128. In implementing this approach, the samples used in the estimation work were divided into 40 replicate subsamples.

²Calculated by rounding to the nearest thousand; $(105 - (2 \times 9.6)) = 86$, and $(105 + (2 \times 9.6)) = 124$.

where s_N is the naive standard error from either equation (2) above or from table F-2, d is the average design effect of 1.38, and f is an adjustment factor from table F-5 that potentially can improve the approximation by partially accounting for the variation in design effects across subgroups of the sample.³ The average design effect is the average increase in the size of the standard error estimated by the replicate method over that of the naive standard error appropriate for a simple random sample. Use of the adjustment factor f will generally improve the approximation when the base of the estimated percentage or number and the characteristic used in defining the percentage or total are quite similar to the bases and characteristics shown in table F-5. In other cases f should be ignored by setting it to 1.0.

For example, to obtain the approximate standard error for the number of households containing an elderly person with zero net income, the first step is to obtain the size of the estimate. From table 45 of the detailed tables, we see that 105 thousand elderly households have zero net income. The next step is to obtain the naive standard error from either equation (2) or less accurately from table F-2. Using equation (2), the value is 7.86 thousand households.⁴ Multiplying 7.86 times the design factor d of 1.38 produces the first approximation of 10.85. In this case the same base for the number of households (i.e., with elderly) and the same characteristic (i.e., zero net income) are defined in table F-5. Consequently, using the f factor from table F-5 should improve the approximation. Multiplying the first approximation of 10.85 times the adjustment factor of .89 from table F-5 produces a second approximation of 9.66. In this case the approximation can be compared with the specific standard error estimate from table F-1, 9.60 thousand. The second approximation happened to be an overestimate in this case, but is closer than the naive standard error of 7.86 thousand (the naive standard error does not account for sample design effects) and closer than the estimate based only on the average design effect (10.85).

³The average design effect is the ratio of the average standard error computed by the replication method to the average naive standard error across all cells of table F-5.

⁴Calculated as; $1408 \times \sqrt{((105/1408) \times (1 - (105/1408))/2212)} = 7.86$. Where 1408 is the estimated number of elderly households, 105 is the estimated number of elderly with zero gross incomes and 2212 is the sample size of elderly households. Table F-4 is accurate only for the full sample size of all food stamp households.

Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages

The standard errors for selected estimated percentages of FSP households are shown in table F-3. As discussed above, these standard errors can be used to compute the 95-percent interval for the estimated percentage. For example, the estimate in table F-3 of the percentage of households with children with zero gross income has a standard error of .281 and therefore the 95-percent confidence interval extends from 2.7 percent to 3.9 percent, around the point estimate of 3.3 percent.⁵

For estimated percentages not shown in table F-3, the approximate standard error, S_E , can be obtained by the use of the formula:

$$(4) \quad S_E = s_p \times d \times f$$

where s_p is the naive standard error from equation (1) above or less accurately from table F-4, d is the average design effect of 1.38, and f is an adjustment factor from table F-5 to improve the approximation as discussed above.

For example, to obtain an approximate estimate of the standard error for the percentage of households with children who have zero net income, the first step is to obtain the estimated percentage and the size of the base for the estimated percentage. From table 51 of the detailed tables we see that 4,208 thousand households have children. From table 53 of Chapter 4 we see that 11.4 percent of households with children have zero net income. The next step is to obtain the naive standard error from equation (1). Using equation (1) the square root of $(.114 \times .886)/(6494-1) = .3944$ percent. Multiplying the naive standard error of .3944 times the average design factor of 1.38 times the specific adjustment factor of 1.00 from table F-5 produces an adjusted approximation of .5443. In this case the approximation can be compared with the specific standard error estimate from table F-3, 0.55. Thus, this approximation is quite close to the actual estimated standard error.

Standard Errors for Estimated Means

The standard errors for selected estimated means are provided in table F-6. These standard errors can be used to compute a 95-percent confidence interval. For example, the standard error for average gross income for all FSP households as shown in table F-6

⁵Calculated by rounding to the nearest tenth of a percent as; $(3.3 - (2 \times .281)) = 2.7$, and $(3.3 + (2 \times .281)) = 3.9$.

is 3.66, and its mean is \$426. Therefore, a 95-percent confidence interval extends between approximately \$419 and \$433.⁶

Generalized approximation methods such as those used above work well for standard errors of estimated numbers and percentages since the standard errors depend only on the sample size, the estimated proportion, and the design effects. Generalized methods are less appropriate for standard errors of means since the standard error depends on the variance as well as the sample size and design effects. However, a rough approximation of the likely magnitude of standard errors of means not included in table F-6 can be obtained from table F-7 which shows the standard error as a percent of the mean value for all FSP households and successively smaller subsets of households. In this table, the approximate standard errors as a percent of the mean value are shown as the average across the 12 variables from table F-6. The lowest and highest values across the 12 variables for each subset of households are also shown to give an indication of the quality of the approximation provided by the standard error expressed as a percent of the mean value. These standard errors include the design effects as they were estimated using a replication method.

⁶Rounding to the nearest dollar, $(426 - (2 * 3.66)) = 419$ and $(426 + (2 * 3.66)) = \$433$.

Table F-1--Standard errors of estimated numbers of food stamp households: 1987
(thousands)

Base of estimated number	Households with								Sample size
	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Earned income	Elderly	Children	School age children	Disabled	
All FSP households	21.26	29.52	27.80	33.03	31.93	51.88	54.15	28.35	10474
With elderly	3.79	9.60	21.40	10.49	NA	12.15	11.43	NA	2212
Without elderly	20.30	27.80	18.01	31.42	NA	41.21	46.58	27.86	8262
With children	11.82	22.98	6.14	27.77	13.13	NA	32.11	20.66	6494
With school children	11.51	18.71	5.26	26.11	11.44	NA	NA	19.07	5023
Without children	19.43	21.65	25.39	12.83	24.46	NA	NA	20.42	3980
With earnings	NA	13.57	8.78	NA	10.90	13.36	27.78	7.48	2309
With disabled	NA	4.47	13.66	6.77	NA	16.60	15.63	NA	886

^aStandard errors computed as number of households in estimated base times the standard errors of the estimated percentages from table F-3. Standard errors in table F-3 were estimated with the replication method.

Table F-2--Naive estimate of standard errors of estimated
numbers of food stamp households
(thousands)

Size of estimate	Naive est. of standard error ^a
10	2.56
50	5.71
100	8.05
250	12.58
500	17.45
1,000	23.70
2,000	30.53
3,000	33.34
4,000	33.17
5,000	29.97
6,000	22.47

^aApplicable when the base of the estimated number is all food stamp households.

$$\text{Naive standard error} = \sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)},$$

where: N = the number of FSP households (6,881 thousand)
p = the size of the estimate divided by N
n = the size of sample (10,474)

Table F-3--Standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households: 1987^a

Base of estimated percentage	Households with							
	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Earned income	Elderly	Children	School age children	Disabled
All FSP households	0.309	0.429	0.404	0.480	0.464	0.754	0.787	0.412
With elderly	0.269	0.682	1.520	0.745	NA	0.863	0.812	NA
Without elderly	0.371	0.508	0.329	0.574	NA	0.753	0.851	0.509
With children	0.281	0.546	0.146	0.660	0.312	NA	0.763	0.491
With school children	0.350	0.569	0.160	0.794	0.348	NA	NA	0.580
Without children	0.727	0.810	0.950	0.480	0.915	NA	NA	0.764
With earnings	NA	0.977	0.632	NA	0.785	0.962	2.000	0.539
With disabled	NA	0.775	2.367	1.174	NA	2.877	2.708	NA

^aStandard errors were estimated using the replication method for the 1987 Food Stamp Quality Control summer sample.

Table F-4--Naive estimate of standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households^a
(thousands)

Base of est. percentage	Estimated percentage			
	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
10	5.59	7.69	11.10	12.82
50	2.50	3.44	4.96	5.73
100	1.77	2.43	3.51	4.05
250	1.12	1.54	2.22	2.56
500	0.79	1.09	1.57	1.81
1,000	0.56	0.77	1.11	1.28
2,000	0.40	0.54	0.78	0.91
3,000	0.32	0.44	0.64	0.74
4,000	0.28	0.38	0.55	0.64
5,000	0.25	0.34	0.50	0.57
6,000	0.23	0.31	0.45	0.52
7,000	0.21	0.29	0.42	0.48

^aApplicable when the base of the estimated number is all food stamp households.

Naive standard error = $\frac{p(1-p)}{(n-1)}$, where p = estimated percentage divided by 100, and n is the sample size of 10,474 for all food stamp households.

Table F-5--Adjustment factors for standard errors of estimated numbers and percentages of food stamp households: 1987^a

Base of estimated percentage	Households with								Average factor
	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Earned income	Elderly	Children	School age children	Disabled	
All FSP households	0.96	0.83	1.05	0.89	0.85	1.15	1.17	1.10	1.00
With elderly	0.81	0.89	1.14	1.10	NA	0.93	0.93	NA	0.96
Without elderly	0.95	0.83	1.16	0.89	NA	1.13	1.13	1.09	1.03
With children	0.92	1.00	1.10	0.86	0.97	NA	1.08	1.21	1.02
With school children	1.07	0.97	1.06	0.90	0.89	NA	NA	1.23	1.02
Without children	1.11	0.83	1.05	0.78	0.84	NA	NA	1.06	0.94
With earnings	NA	1.04	1.16	NA	1.17	0.90	1.51	1.05	1.14
With disabled	NA	0.91	1.29	0.93	NA	1.25	1.22	NA	1.12
Average factor	0.97	0.91	1.13	0.91	0.94	1.07	1.17	1.12	1.00

^aThe adjustment factors are as defined A/B; where A = the ratio of the standard error computed by the replication method to the naive standard error for the specific cell of the table, and B = the ratio of the average standard error computed by the replication method to the average naive standard error across all cells.

Table F-6--Standard errors of estimated means: 1987^a

Base of estimated mean	Standard Error for mean value of											
	Gross income	Net income	Benefit	All deductions	Resources	Household size	Certification period	Earnings ^b	AFDC & GA ^c	SSI ^c	Dependent care cost ^b	Shelter deduction ^b
All FSP households	3.660	3.31	1.22	1.02	2.91	0.03	0.04	9.98	3.10	4.64	3.40	1.11
With elderly	3.280	3.76	1.22	3.12	10.24	0.03	0.08	26.56	14.90	4.81	3.23	3.80
Without elderly	4.520	3.85	1.39	1.08	2.68	0.03	0.05	9.70	2.89	6.90	3.46	0.99
With children	4.906	4.47	1.50	1.35	3.23	0.03	0.06	10.94	2.95	10.82	3.40	1.12
With school children	6.130	5.45	1.86	1.80	3.96	0.04	0.07	11.68	3.15	12.26	3.99	1.39
Without children	3.500	2.92	0.66	2.12	6.27	0.01	0.07	13.13	5.10	5.43	1.80	2.17
With earnings	9.420	8.26	2.75	2.81	8.08	0.06	0.09	9.98	9.40	14.52	3.90	1.90
With disabled	10.860	11.78	3.58	5.50	11.45	0.11	0.13	39.75	9.68	6.90	C	6.00

^aStandard errors were estimated using the replication method.

^bFor households with a non-zero amount.

^cSample size too small to make an estimate.

Table F-7--Range of standard errors of mean amounts expressed
as a percent of the mean amount^a

Number of households in base of mean (thousands)	Standard error as percent of mean amount		
	Average ^b	Lowest ^c	Highest ^d
6,881 (all FSP households)	1.5	0.4	3.7
4,208 (households with children)	1.9	0.6	6.1
1,389 (households with earnings)	2.8	1.0	7.4
577 (households with disabled)	4.6	2.1	14.4

^aStandard errors were from table F-6 and mean amounts from the applicable text tables.

^bAverage standard error across all 12 variables in table F-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

^cLowest of the standard errors across all 12 variables in table F-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

^dHighest of the standard errors across all 12 variables in table F-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

(For Optional State Use)

INTEGRATED REVIEW SCHEDULE

PRIVACY ACT/PAPERWORK NOTICE ACT: This report is required under provisions of 45 CFR 205.40 (AFDC), 7 CFR 275.14 (Food Stamp), and 42 CFR 431.800 (Medicaid). This information is needed for the review of State performance in determining recipient eligibility. The information is used to determine State compliance, and failure to report may result in a finding of non-compliance.

I. REVIEW SUMMARY

1. Review Number	1a. Case Number	2. State and Local Agency Codes	3. Sample Month and Year	4. Stratum	5. Review Type
6. Disposition		7. Review Findings		8. Amount of Error	
AFDC ADULT	FS	MA	AFDC ADULT	FS	AFDC ADULT

II. CASE INFORMATION

9. Most Recent Opening				9a. Prior Assistance	10. Most Recent Action		11. Type of Action	12. No. of Case Members	13. Liquid Assets	14. Real Property Excl. Home	15. Countable Vehicle Assets	16. Other Non-Liquid Assets
ADULT												
AFDC												
FS												
MA												

CASE INFORMATION - AFDC/ADULT

17. Monthly Payment Standard	18. Sample Month's Payment	19. Restricted Payment Status	20. Unborn Child	21. Shelter Arrangement	22. Gross Countable Income	23. Work-Related Expenses	24. Child or Dependent Care Disregard	25. First \$30 and 1/3 of Remainder	26. Net Countable Income

CASE INFORMATION - FOOD STAMP

27. Case Classification	28. Months in Cert. Period	29. Coupon Audit	30. Exped. Service	31. Auth. Req.	32. Gross Countable Income	33. Earned Income Deduction	34. Medical Cost	35. Shelter Cost	36. Dependent Care Cost	37. Net Countable Income

CASE INFORMATION - MEDICAID

38. Medical Expenses Used to Meet Spenddown	39. Gross Countable Income	40. Net Countable Income
Type	Amount	

[illegible]

53. Person Number	54. Type of Income	55. Amount of income	56. Type of Income	57. Amount of income	58. Type of Income	59. Amount of income	60. Type of Income	61. Amount of income
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
32								
33								
34								
35								
36								
37								
38								
39								
40								
41								
42								
43								
44								
45								
46								
47								
48								
49								
50								
51								
52								
53								
54								
55								
56								
57								
58								
59								
60								
61								
62								
63								
64								
65								
66								
67								
68								
69								
70								
71								
72								
73								
74								
75								
76								
77								
78								
79								
80								
81								
82								
83								
84								
85								
86								
87								
88								
89								

REVIEW NUMBER

(For Optional State Use)

V. ELIGIBILITY REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID

62. Eligibility Coverage Codes

Agency

OC

63. Initial Case
Eligibility Status

64. Initial Case Liability Error

65. Amount of Excess Resources

VI. DETAILED ERROR FINDINGS

56. Program Identification	67. Error Finding		68. Case Members with Errors (MAI)	69. Element	70. Nature Code	71. Agency or Client	72. Dollar Amount	73. Discovery	74. Verification	75. Occurrence	
										Date	Time Period

76. Ineligible Persons with
Federal Matching
(AFDC Overpayment
Case)

Counted

Not Counted

REVIEW NUMBER

File Number: State ID

VII. PAYMENT REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID

77. Dollar Amount of Paid Claims	78. Final Case Eg. Status	79. Revised Initial Case Liability Error	80. Spend- down Months	81. Total Claims Used to Offset Initial LI Errors	82. Final Dollar Amount of Case Liability Errors	83. Final Dollar Amount of Case E d down Errors

VIII. OPTIONAL - FOR STATE SYSTEMS ONLY

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Appendix H--List of previous reports in this series

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1986. U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,
Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1988

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1985. U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,
Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1987

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1984. U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,
Office of Analysis and Evaluation

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, February 1983. U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,
Office of Analysis and Evaluation

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1982. U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,
Office of Analysis and Evaluation

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1981. U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,
Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1984

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1980. U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,
Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation; 1981

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, November 1979. U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,
Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation; 1981

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, February 1978. U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,
Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation; 1980

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, September 1976. U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Food
Stamp Division; 1977

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, September 1975. U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Food
Stamp Division; 1976